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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Issues Statement on Gulf, Helsinki Summit *[Sanaa VOP]* 1
PLO Radio Views Aims of Baker Damascus Visit *[Algiers VOP]* 2
WAFA Editor Comments on Qatari Statement *[Algiers VOP]* 2
Qatar Warned Against Anti-Palestinian Actions *[Baghdad VOP]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Ghazali Replies to Perez de Cuellar on Sanctions *[Algiers Radio]* 4
Islamic Leader Madani Comments on Mediation *[Algiers Radio]* 4
To Undertake New Mediation *[Amman Radio]* 4

Egypt

Abu-Talib Views Efficiency of Troops in Gulf *[MENA]* 4
Mubarak Receives Libyan Official Al-Kharrubi *[MENA]* 5
Ghali Comments on Helsinki Summit Results *[MENA]* 5
Article Assesses Impact *[AL-WAFD 11 Sep]* 5
Iraqi Officials 'Detained' at Cairo Airport *[AFP]* 6
Embassy Families Leave Cairo *[MENA]* 6
254,993 Returned From Iraq, Kuwait Since 2 Aug *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Foreign Ministry Source on Arab League Transfer *[Cairo Radio]* 7
Politicians View Tunisian Stance *[MENA]* 7
Al-Baz Criticizes PLO Stand on Gulf Crisis *[MENA]* 7
Iraq Conducts 'Terrorist Campaign' in Kuwait *[Cairo Radio]* 8
Paper Defends Acts Against 'Fifth Columnists' *[MENA]* 8
Differences With IMF Regarding Rates Settled *[Cairo Radio]* 8

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Kuwaiti Foreign Minister *[JANA]* 8
Minister Ends Visit, Leaves *[Tripoli Radio]* 8

Sudan

Reports Regarding Iraqi Troops, Missiles Denied *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 9
Minister Meets OAU's Salim on Refugees Issue *[Omdurman Radio]* 9
Libyan Delegation Visits Central Region *[SUNA]* 9
Khalifah Receives Iranian Charge d'Affaires *[Omdurman Radio]* 9
Armed Forces Move Against 'Outlaw' Camps *[SUNA]* 9
SPLA Claims 'Decisive Victory' Over Convoy *[Radio SPLA]* 9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

General Colin Powell Arrives in Manama 11
To Discuss Region *[WAKH]* 11
Received by Amir 14 Sep *[WAKH]* 11

Kuwait

Iraqi Troops Seize French Attache, Nationals *[AFP]* 11
Resistance Source Details Anti-Iraqi Actions *[London AL-ZAHIRAH 10 Sep]* 11
Resistance Member Discusses Weapons Supply *[Riyadh AL-RIYAD 10 Sep]* 12
Resistance Operations Against Iraq Intensify *[Muscat TV]* 12
Communications Minister Hayat Visits Zambia *[cross-reference]* 12

Qatar

Libya's Al-Kharrubi Meets With Amir Al Thani 13
Discuss Gulf Solution *[JANA]* 13
Meets Crown Prince *[JANA]* 13

Saudi Arabia

Pakistan's Jatoi Meets Kuwaiti Amir in Al-Ta'if *[Islamabad Radio]* 13
Kuwaiti Finance Minister on Continued Investment *[Riyadh TV]* 13
Foreign Minister Comments on USSR Ties, Gulf *[Tokyo KYODO 10 Sep]* 13
Prince Sa'ud Denies AFP Story on U.S. Impact *[Riyadh Radio]* 14
Royal Official Denies Story on Schools Opening *[Riyadh Radio]* 14
U.S. General Powell Arrives on Two-Day Visit *[SPA]* 14
Saudis Grant $5 Million for Jordan Refugees *[Rome ANSA 14 Sep]* 14
Editorial Reviews Helsinki Lessons for Saddam *[UKAZ 11 Sep]* 14
Bangladesh President Arrives in Jeddah for Visit *[Riyadh Radio]* 15
Crown Prince Meets Afghan Rebel Leader 13 Sep *[Riyadh TV]* 15
Comoros Minister Visits King Fahd, Kuwait Amir *[Moroni Radio]* 15

United Arab Emirates

Information Minister Interviewed on Gulf Crisis *[Tokyo KYODO 11 Sep]* 16
Editorials Assess Bush Congress Speech *[WAM]* 16
Newspaper Hails U.S.-Soviet 'Convergence of Views' *[AL-BAYAN 11 Sep]* 16

Yemen

Tribal Chiefs Pledge Support for King Fahd *[Jeddah 'UKAZ 2 Sep]* 17
Transport Workers on Boycotting Foreign Transport *[INA]* 17

IRAQ

Government Responds to U.S. Warning on Terrorism *[Baghdad Radio]* 18
Foodstuffs Donated by Jordanian Workers Arrive *[Baghdad Radio]* 18
Australia, Canada Condemned for Wheat Nondelivery *[INA]* 18
Egyptian 'Volunteers' Forced To Fight in Kuwait *[AL-WAFD 10 Sep]* 19
Algerian Volunteers Joining Iraqi 'Mujahidin' *[INA]* 19
Ramadan Meets With Arab Youth Delegation *[INA]* 19
'Ulema Call for 'Holy Jihad' Against Foreigners *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Islamic Movement Leader Cables Support for Saddam *[INA]* 20
Popular Islamic Conference Disputes Mecca Rulings *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
'Aziz, 'Arafat Discuss U.S. Presence in Gulf *[INA]* 20
Labor Official Meets Sri Lankan Counterpart *[INA]* 20
Minister Warns Against Disposal of Kuwaiti Assets *[INA]* 21

RCC Allows Cultivation of State-Owned Land *[AL-THAWRAH 9 Sep]* 21
More Areas of Land Allocated for Wheat, Barley *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 7 Sep]* 21
Contest Held To Devise Alternative Poultry Feed *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 7 Sep]* 21
Official Urges Increased Production, Conservation *[AL-THAWRAH 7 Sep]* 21
Price of Fertilizers Reduced for Farmers *[INA]* 22
More POW's Exchanged With Iran 22
33d Group *[Voice of the Masses]* 22
34th Group *[INA]* 22
35th Group *[Baghdad Radio]* 22

ISRAEL

Moda'i, Ne'eman To Confer With Gorbachev 15 Sep *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Knesset Summons Mosad Chief on Ostrovsky Affair *[IDF Radio]* 23
New Economic Plan, Reactions Reported *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Sep]* 23
Tzomet Demands Electoral Bill Be Passed by 20 Nov *[IDF Radio]* 25
Commentary Urges No Write-Off of Debt to U.S. *[HA'ARETZ 13 Sep]* 25
U.S. Fails To Agree to 'Urgent' Defense Requests *[HA'ARETZ 14 Sep]* 26
Bush Address 'Clear Threat' to Iraq, Arab World *[AL-QUDS 13 Sep]* 26
First Greek Ambassador Presents Credentials *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Clashes, Incidents Reported in Territories 27
10 September *[THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Sep, etc.]* 27
11 September *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Sep]* 27
12 September *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Sep]* 28
13 September *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Sep]* 29

JORDAN

UN Says 41,000 People Stranded in Nation *[AFP]* 30
Foreign Nationals Continue To Flee Iraq, Kuwait *[JORDAN TIMES 13-14 Sep]* 30
Netherlands Allocates $2 Million for Evacuees *[PETRA-JNA 13 Sep]* 30
EC Canned Beef 'Unfit for Human Consumption' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 30
UK Minister, Hasan Discuss Refugee Problem *[PETRA-JNA 13 Sep]* 30
Appeals for World Aid *[PETRA-JNA 13 Sep]* 31
Paper Assails U.S., UK Policy of Alliances *[AL-DUSTUR 14 Sep]* 31
Foreign Minister Meets With Malaysian Official *[Amman Radio]* 31
Al-Qasim Receives Shevardnadze Letter on Summit *[PETRA-JNA 13 Sep]* 31
Paper Praises Iranian Call for Jihad *[AL-RA'Y 14 Sep]* 32
Columnist Criticizes Conflicting Ads on Crisis *[AL-DUSTUR 14 Sep]* 32
Memos Say Press Free From Government Control *[THE STAR 13-19 Sep]* 32
Saudi Embassy Stresses Support for Palestinians *[[]AL-DUSTUR 13 Sep[]]* 32
'Economic Quantities' of Oil Reported in 'Ajlun *[AL-DUSTUR 13 Sep]* 33

LEBANON

Government Responds to Gen. 'Awn's Proposals *[VOL]* 34
President Asks King Fahd for Financial Aid *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Saudi Arabia, Others To Give 'Immediate Aid' *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Al-Musawi on Chances for U.S. Hostages' Release *[AL-ANWAR 13 Sep]* 34
Reports of Operation Against B'abda Denied *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Hizballah Statement on Assistance to Villages *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 35
Army Said To Deploy Brigades on Front Lines *[RFL]* 35
'Terrorist' Caught by IDF in Security Zone *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Resistance Shells Israeli, 'Agent' Positions *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Islamic Resistance, Amal Activities Reported *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 36
Fierce Fighting Reported in Iqlim al-Tuffah *[VOL]* 36
Highway Built in Security Zone Inaugurated *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
American University Branch Students Stage Sit-In *[RFL]* 37

SYRIA

Baker Arrives in Damascus; Met by Al-Shar' *[Damascus Radio]* 38
Holds Talks With Al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 38
Makes Statement, Departs *[Damascus Radio]* 38
'Sources' Cited on Dispatch of Armored Brigade *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 38
Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Italy *[cross-reference]* 38
Foreign Minister Returns From Italy Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 38
*Iranian Request to Syria Considered Startling *[Beirut AL-SHIRA' 20 Aug]* 38

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

AFP Views Likely Effects of Political Reforms 39
Saudi Wahabis Attack; Forces Strengthen Defense *[Kabul Radio]* 39
Ministry of State Security Conducts Operations *[Kabul Radio]* 40

India

Indian Airlines Hijacking Attempted *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Iraqi Jet To Evacuate Nationals From Kuwait *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Ship Docks in Bombay With 539 Nationals From Gulf *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Singh Discusses Elections With Punjab Officials *[Delhi Radio]* 40
BJP Criticizes Government Policy on Provinces *[Delhi Radio]* 41
One Policeman Among Five Killed in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 41

Iran

Habibi Reviews Crisis Resolution With EC Envoy *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Ansari Urges Support for Kashmir Muslims *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Measures Taken To Speed Port Freight Handling *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Petroleum Minister Discusses Oil Production *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Additional 1,000 POW's Return at Khosravi Border *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Further Exchanges *[Tehran Radio]* 43

Nepal & Bhutan

Second Group of Nepalese Evacuated From Amman *[AFP]* 43

Pakistan

Official Explains Gulf Crisis Impact on Economy *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
PPP Forms Election Alliance With NWFP Parties *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Ziaul-Haq Sons To Run as Candidates in Elections *[AFP]* 44
Special Court Defers Hearing of Bhutto Case *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
Azad Kashmir Premier Denounces Indian Army *[Islamabad International]* 44

Sri Lanka

Minister Appeals for Help To Evacuate Nationals *[Colombo International]* 44
Rebels Deny Government Recapture of Jaffna Fort *[Delhi Radio]* 44

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Issues Statement on Gulf, Helsinki Summit

JN1309181790 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1604 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee; place, date not given]

[Text] Voices throughout the world have resonated in calling for giving a better chance for efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis through peaceful means, within an Arab framework, and under the auspices of international legitimacy to spare the Arab region and the world the repercussions of a war that might destroy the Arab structure, the Arab states, and inflict the gravest dangers on the fundamental makeup of the nation's life and civilization to serve the ambitions of its enemies and those lying in wait for it. This approach to easing the dangers inherent in a military confrontation was reflected in the outcome of the Helsinki summit, in which the Soviet side affirmed the need to give greater opportunities to political solutions—a matter which encourages the forces and parties which seek to pursue a political option in the Gulf in particular and the Middle East in general to pursue further efforts and take the necessary time to achieve this objective.

Within this framework, the importance of the approach taken by the PLO since the outbreak of the crisis emerges. The PLO, along with some Arab leaders who have chosen to resist temptations—who have not walked in the footsteps of those beating the drums of war, and who have announced from the outset that the only suitable solution is an Arab solution enjoying an international cover and support—has been pursuing this approach. These leaders offered in this regard ideas and proposals based on the nonisolation of the hotbeds of tension and the problems posing threats to security and stability in the Middle East—ideas and proposals that deal with international legitimacy, regarding these issues as an indivisible whole and demanding an implementation of the international resolutions on the Middle East conflicts in general and the Palestine question in particular.

This approach which the PLO, along with the sincere Arab brothers has been pursuing to tackle the Gulf crisis, and in accordance with which the PLO has made moves on both Arab and international fronts, has nowadays begun to enjoy a better understanding and further support from the world states, from international blocs, and also from the world public. In addition, the call for convening an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of the PLO on an equal basis with other parties to the conflict has gained further support at international forums. This development opens up new prospects for the possibility of resolving the Gulf crisis and the Middle East conflict in its essence, which is the Palestine question, which has been burning for scores of years. However, this course of events which has begun to shape the Gulf crisis, and the changes that have taken place regarding understanding the nature of the crisis and its relationship to the overall Middle East conflict have not fallen in harmony with the U.S. Administration's policies, intentions, and measures. The U.S. Administration has continued to beat the drums of war, to mass further U.S. and foreign troops, to prepare for an aggression on fraternal Iraq, to jeopardize pan-Arab and world security, and to show insistence on separating the Gulf crisis from the Middle East conflict and the Palestine question. Moreover, the U.S. Administration has shown a determination to reject the convocation of an international peace conference. By so doing, the hypocrisy of the U.S. Administration, its double standard in dealing with regional and international issues, its partitioning of international legitimacy, and its tailoring of this legitimacy to suit hostile U.S. and Israeli interests have been blatantly and flagrantly exposed. It is regrettable that some Arab quarters have begun to be swept away by the U.S. campaign and to conspire against the Palestine question, the Palestinian people, and their leadership. Within this context emerge the attempts to put pressures on the Palestinian people, to plague them with further displacement, and to fight their means of livelihood through the pursuit of the policy of deporting and expelling Palestinians from some Arab states.

The experiences of our contemporary history shows that absolute submission to the U.S. policy is a shortsighted approach that will inflict the gravest damage on the independence, stability, and security of the Arab states. Besides, this would divest the Arab states of their right to possess their national wealth, and prevent them from proceeding along the path of development and modernization. The direct U.S. presence, particularly the military presence, seeks first and foremost to consecrate submission. Moreover, it feeds Israeli aggression and expansionism against Palestine and the entire Arab nation. The object is to place the Arab region between U.S. and Israeli pincer jaws with a view to consecrating the occupation of lands on the one hand and seizing control of the sources of wealth on the other.

Following changes that have swept the world, a new Arab outlook emerged calling for a complementarity of the components of pan-Arab security and for promoting Arab interests by dealing with the new world so as to secure Arab national and economic interests. The call for promoting Arab solidarity was the key requisite for advancing [word indistinct] the new world climate based on mutual respect. The Arab League's problem cannot be addressed outside of this framework, since the insistence on disintegrating the League amounts to devaluing the security side in intra-Arab relations and undercuts an Arab-based solution to the Gulf crisis, as well as being an evasion of Arab consensus.

We would emphasize here that faithfulness to Arab solidarity, joint Arab action, and resolutions reflecting Arab consensus is to be judged by the extent of concern shown for the unity of the Arab League, and opposition to the process of destroying it, which can only serve the enemies of the Arab nation. We call upon all those who

advocate an Arab solution to make every effort to save the League and keep this common Arab house from collapsing. [Words indistinct] current developments to the Gulf crisis and establishing a link between a solution to the Gulf crisis and the Mideast and Palestinian problems and the convening of an international peace conference makes us all the more convinced that we must stick to our [word indistinct] to ensure the security, sovereignty, rights, and stability for all Arab peoples.

The conspiratorial attempts of the U.S. Administration and its agents against the Palestinian people will not weaken our people's resolve to hold their ground. The U.S. Administration's efforts have failed in the past to turn international attention away from the intifadah of our heroic Palestinian people and the substance of the longstanding conflict in the region, namely the Palestinian question. This is thanks to the resolve of our people to beat the occupation and realize their rights to self-determination and statehood, and to hold on to their peace initiative around which the Arabs and the world have rallied. Accordingly, Washington and Tel Aviv's attempts to turn attention away from the heart of the matter are doomed.

The U.S.-Israeli alliance is exploiting the war atmosphere in the Gulf region to pursue the perpetuation of occupation and bolster it with Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union to Palestine, promote creeping settlement, and escalate repression and terror against our people in the occupied territory, as well as provide the Israeli war machine with new delivery of the most up-to-date weapons of destruction.

The PLO calls on all Arab brothers to be guided by reason and their consciences, and concern for future generations as they deal with these fateful developments. They are urged to devote all their energies to finding a political Arab-based solution that averts a catastrophe and closes all doors to the Washington-led drive to war against the entire Arab existence, without excepting anyone or any country. The PLO will keep up its efforts according to this understanding in coordination with all sincere Arabs from the Ocean to the Gulf in defense of the interests and rights of our people, as well as the fundamentals of Arab independence.

PLO Radio Views Aims of Baker Damascus Visit

LD1309223190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] It seems that the attention of the U.S. policy makers is being drawn these days toward Damascus, which has paid many dues of allegiance that would put it in the forefront of the U.S. Administration's most-favored nations, a matter which qualifies it to play Washington's dictated role of dealing a blow to the Arab nation's groin in the service of the latter's enemies, which would like to see it linger under the shackles of slavery and subordination.

Today, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrives in Damascus on a visit that will give rise to a number of meanings and raising a number of question marks, given that for many years Damascus carried banners urging confrontation with U.S. imperialism in the region; however, it has now retraced its stance. It has adopted new behavior and stances completely opposed to the previous slogans, which were merely bubbles.

The Syrian stance has allowed itself, furthermore, to reach a low ebb of scheming with the foreigner against the Arab nation's interests, resources, and capabilities when it sent Syrian troops which have entrenched themselves side by side with the U.S. Marines against Iraq, the emblem of Arabism and glory. However, the expected shape of such a regime's future stance and policies would make people very ashamed of what will be reported about Baker's talks in Damascus. Such talks are aimed at achieving a Syrian-Israeli political reconciliation that would remove doubts and sow the seeds of trust between the two sides a matter which is no longer strange nor unattainable as soon as Damascus, the emblem of steadfastness and confrontation, has allied itself with the biggest ally of Israel and has allowed itself to outflank it in the lands of Najd and Hijaz as well as amass its fleets, aircraft, and soldiers (?against) the house of Al-Rashid [Iraq].

Hence, the treads of Camp David No. 2 have become more visible. Such treads began to be made as soon as the return of warmth in Syrian-Egyptian relationships. And we can see the negative effects of such relations on the Arab nation, given today's schism and division which have opened the appetite of its enemy to swooping on it and squandering the resources of its peoples.

Furthermore, through the restoration of relations between the two countries, Washington wants to confront the new Iraq-Iran strategic offensive with a counteroffensive, that is, a Syrian-Israeli reconciliation, a reconciliation that would soon take place given the frightening changes being witnessed by the Arab scene, changes the shapes of which are more or less like sand dunes.

However, Baker's success in taming al-Asad [reference to Syrian president's name, meaning the lion] will not change the U.S. balance one iota as long as the hearts of the Syrian and the Arab masses throb with anger which will burn the faces of oppressors and their agents. History is full of such examples.

WAFA Editor Comments on Qatari Statement

LD1309200190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] News agencies have reported that the Qatari Foreign Ministry issued a statement two days ago in which it retorted: Proceeding from the State of Qatar's firm belief in its pan-Arab responsibilities, it embraced its Arab brethren, foremost among whom were the Palestinians for whom it still provides a good and secure life in accordance with its commitments. The statement

went on: The State of Qatar, while reaffirming its firm stance toward the Palestinian cause and the intifadah of its courageous people, is determined to continue support and aid in order to achieve the Arab nation's sought-after aims, foremost of which is the Palestinian people's right to return to their land and to regain all their legitimate rights.

WAFA's political editor has noted that the statement of the Qatari Foreign Ministry avoided mentioning the PLO, the leader of the Palestinian people's courageous struggle and the leader of its blessed 1000-day-old intifadah. The political editor stressed that his observation is merely a remark and does not constitute a comment on the Qatari statement. The political editor noted that the Qatari government recently deported a number of Palestinians who had been working there for many long years, despite its knowledge that they could not possibly be held responsible for the situation in the Gulf.

Qatar Warned Against Anti-Palestinian Actions

JN1409104490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Commentary by political editor: "Rulers of Qatar, Stop at Your Limits"]

[Text] It seems that some people do not learn from all the lessons. It also seems that some people do not know themselves, do not know their size or that the encroachment of insignificant dwarves upon giants has a terrible price.

It has been said in the past: God blesses he who knows his limits and stops there. It seems that those people in certain Gulf states, and, specifically, in the superpower called the State of Qatar, do not know themselves; nor do they know their limits and how, when, and where to stop. We, of course, know that the State of Qatar is a superpower. But, we also know that it is a state of sands. And, of course, we know that only a few years ago there was nothing on the geographic map called the State of Qatar.

Qataris know, even more than we do, that it was the Palestinians who built them an entity out of nothingness and from the dead desert and the salty sea. The Palestinians are not only something. They are the legend of the age; and, they are vultures when they choose to be vultures. They also know how to return a stronger blow for any blow dealt to them. They also know how to respond to their expulsion and the expulsion of their families and children from the superpower called the State of Qatar after they built it out of nothing.

In a nutshell, we tell Qatar's rulers: Our fence is not low. We also tell them that the PLO cannot be punished and no one can infringe on the PLO. The PLO is the state of Palestinians everywhere. It knows how to protect its people and take care of their families and rights. Therefore, rulers of Qatar: Beware. Do not harm the people of Palestine. They are a sacred people upon whom no one can infringe. God blesses he who knows his limits and stops there. Stop at your limits. Stop at your limits.

Algeria

Ghazali Replies to Perez de Cuellar on Sanctions

LD1409022790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Report by Jaouida]

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali has sent a reply to UN Secretary General Mr. de Cuellar's message to Ghazali on the UN Security Council Resolution 661 on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait.

Among the most important points in the Algerian foreign minister's message were: Algeria's foreign policy has always been based on noninterference in other countries' internal affairs and nonuse of force to resolve disputes; it had rejected the invasion of Kuwait which it described from the outset as unacceptable.

As far as UN Security Council Resolution 661 is concerned, Mr. Ghazali has reiterated Algeria's commitment to international legitimacy, the UN resolutions, and the norms and principles of international law. However, Mr. Ghazali pointed out in his message two main points: first, the fact that the UN Security Council has effectively moved, in an unusual way, to face up to the Gulf crisis and the way in which it adopted its measures against Iraq. How nice it would be if the UN Security Council would move with the same firmness and effectiveness in its dealings with all violations of the UN charter and the principles of international law.

The second point deals with the UN Security Council's sanctions against Iraq. Algeria believes that the third paragraph of the resolution did not stipulate refraining from furnishing Iraq with food and medicine on the understanding that the UN Security Council did not intend to starve out the Iraqi and the Kuwaiti peoples.

Islamic Leader Madani Comments on Mediation

LD1309224990 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Excerpts] [Islamic Salvation Front leader] Mr. Abassi Madani announces in Algiers the continuation of the mediation of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in the Gulf crisis and he declares himself in favor of an Arab-Islamic solution; this came during a press conference given this afternoon in Algiers attended by [reporter] Nacera Medjadel.

[Medjadel] Yes, a meeting with the national and international press mainly devoted to the mediation undertaken by the FIS for an Arab-Islamic solution to the Gulf crisis. Abassi Madani from the start clarified this mediation. This, he said, is an exclusively FIS initiative and which commits only the latter. The FIS spokesman recalled that before he started this mediation, marches were organized all over the country, marches which as well as condemning the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, denounced the intervention of foreign forces in the Gulf.

Mr. Abassi Madani justified the mission of the FIS with the fear of a possible all-out war which would have dramatic consequences on the whole of mankind. Concerning the contacts of his delegation with the parties in the conflict, that is King Fahd and President Saddam Husayn, the FIS spokesman says he found in both of them a readiness for dialogue within a strictly Arab-Islamic framework.

Mr. Abassi Madani on the other hand said he was pleased with the release by Iraq of foreign nationals—women and children—reading this gesture as a sign of goodwill on the part of Baghdad; a gesture which has indeed not received a positive reaction from the Westerners. The latter as you know have in fact maintained the embargo [word indistinct] against Iraq with all the attendant consequences upon the Iraqi population. [passage omitted]

After Mr. Abassi Madani's speech, the FIS number two, Mr. 'Ali Belhadj, stressed that the results of this mediation cannot be revealed so as not to compromise it. [passage omitted]

To Undertake New Mediation

JN1409060590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] In Algiers, Islamic Salvation Front leader Abassi Madani told a news conference yesterday that he will undertake a new shuttle diplomacy between Iraq and Saudi Arabia to continue his mediation between the two over the Gulf crisis. Madani returned to Algeria Tuesday [11 September] after spending 20 days in Saudi Arabia and Iraq, during which he met three times with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and twice with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Madani expressed satisfaction at the understanding the Islamic Front delegation felt from both sides, which accepted dialogue and dismissed any military solution to the Gulf crisis.

Egypt

Abu-Talib Views Efficiency of Troops in Gulf

NC1309155290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Inshas, 13 Sep (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the armed forces and defense and war production minister, said that all Egyptian forces sent to the Gulf area can defend themselves against any air or chemical weapons attacks.

Abu-Talib said that as part of their training all the armed forces are trained to fight under all conditions and that all units and formations have decontamination and protective devices.

Gen. Abu-Talib said this in press statements after attending the celebration marking the day of training of the paratroopers units this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Regarding defense against air attacks, Abu-Talib said that these units have what is necessary for defense, such as machine guns, shoulder rockets, and other weapons enabling them to defend themselves against aircraft.

Answering a question about the Egyptian forces that have been sent abroad and the effect of this on the strategic balance of the armed forces, Abu-Talib said: I emphasize that there is absolutely no effect. Any request for more forces will be subject to a political decision and we will take into consideration the strategic balance. He explained that there is full coordination between these forces, which operate under the Saudi forces command with the joint Arab forces. He stressed that these forces began their training on the new ground on the first day they arrived there.

Asked about the recent visits of a number of defense ministers to Egypt, Abu-Talib said: We exchange expertise, visits, and information in these circumstances. Most of these visits were preplanned or delayed visits. The object of some of these visits, such as that of the Belgian defense minister which will begin on Sunday [16 September], is to reconsider the participation of the planes belonging to the states concerned in repatriating the Egyptians from Kuwait. He explained that cooperation and exchange of views under such circumstances become necessary. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives Libyan Official Al-Kharrubi

NC1309144690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1013 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Alexandria, 13 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council.

Coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Dam attended the meeting. Al-Kharrubi's visit to Egypt is part of his current tour of a number of countries in the region.

Ghali Comments on Helsinki Summit Results

NC1009110290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0946 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today described the two superpowers' agreement at the Helsinki summit—that Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait must be complete and unconditional, and that the legitimate government must be restored—as an important development reemphasizing the unanimous international demand for Iraq's complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and for the return of the legitimate government.

Commenting on the results of the Helsinki summit, Dr. Ghali today said that the meeting between Bush and Gorbachev is a phase of the intensified diplomatic efforts which are mainly trying to find a convincing basis for a peaceful solution to the problem. This, he said coincides with the broad lines of Egyptian policy on the Gulf crisis.

Dr. Ghali pointed out that the reference in the Helsinki statement to the Palestinian issue and to Security Council Resolution 242 stipulating withdrawal from the occupied territories affirms that it is not possible to divide the concept of aggression or the forcible occupation of territory both with respect to the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian question.

Article Assesses Impact

PM1409094990 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Sep 90 p 1

[Article by Jamal Badawi: "Back Door Shut in Iraqi Dictator's Face"]

[Text] The summit of the two giants, U.S. President Bush and Soviet leader Gorbachev, has, for the first time, produced important results unprecedented in previous summits between the two superpowers. It was clear at the end of the Helsinki summit that:

1. There was no gap between the two superpowers on the main principle, namely the immediate unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate regime overthrown by Iraq. This means that there is no loophole for Saddam Husayn to use to keep his prey and escape punishment. By agreeing on that principle the two giants have closed the back door to any exploitation of the traditional preperestroyka conflict between Moscow and Washington.

2. Soviet naval units have been in the Gulf for 20 years, but Gorbachev has decided not to participate in the multinational forces now building up in the Gulf. That may be due to the current internal circumstances of the Soviet Union and the cool relations between Gorbachev and the Soviet generals.

3. In the joint statement on the talks of the two giants the Soviet Union did not object to the use of force to compel Saddam Husayn to withdraw his forces from Kuwait. That deliberate omission means giving the United States a free hand in using force against the Iraqi dictator if the diplomatic option fails. Frankly, it means giving the United States freedom of action without fearing Soviet opposition.

4. The two sides agreed to go back to the United Nations for additional steps if the current sanctions fail. That means the Soviet Union will not veto any new measures and that the two states "will work together to eliminate any suspicion that the aggression will reap any fruit."

5. It is clear that the Soviet enthusiasm for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces

from Kuwait was no less than the U.S. enthusiasm for such withdrawal. That reflects a brave and decisive Soviet stance in harmony with the new policy of respect for the will of nations and for self-determination and rejection of the occupation of other people's territory under the pretext of unity. It is a position more courageous than some taken by certain Arab states which support or bless occupation or turn a blind eye to it on false pretexts.

6. Bush and Gorbachev are in no hurry for a military solution. They see it as the last available option to force Saddam to withdraw. They prefer intensification of economic pressure until fulfillment of the same objective, unless Iraq does something that would make a military solution inevitable.

7. The two superpowers completely ignored the Iraqi dictator's message to them before the Helsinki conference. That means that they have closed the door to altercations, as it became clear that dialogue with him was more like a dialogue of the deaf, that he spoke with arrogance and conceit, and that he was following a line contrary to the international consensus on a practical settlement based on immediate withdrawal from Kuwait.

8. Bush assured Gorbachev that the U.S. forces would not remain in the Gulf a day longer than the completion of the task they are there for, namely, restoring the security situation which prevailed before Saddam's occupaion of Kuwait. There was no objection from Gorbachev to that U.S. line. This is a new Soviet position because in the past the Soviets always opposed increased U.S. military presence near their southern borders. This reflects Soviet understanding of the dimensions of the current Gulf crisis and shows that the Soviets place considerations of world security and stability above the former Cold War considerations.

The most important outcome of the Helsinki summit is that it placed the entire Gulf crisis in the hands of the United States and the Soviet Union and eliminated all other efforts to settle it within an Arab or any other framework. Arab division, impotence, and failure have been at their worst since the crisis began.

That was a quick reading of the Helsinki summit.

Iraqi Officials 'Detained' at Cairo Airport

NC1309141590 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept 13 (AFP)—Seven officials of the Iraqi embassy in Egypt and their families were briefly detained at Cairo airport early Thursday [13 September] as they were to board a regular Royal Jordanian flight to Amman, airport sources said.

About 20 diplomats and dependents were at first told they would be prevented from leaving but were later authorized to depart after contacts between the airport and foreign ministry, they said.

Officials gave no explanation for the hold-up.

A ministry official said earlier that Egyptian diplomats posted in Kuwait had abandoned the embassy there last week when vital supplies ran out.

But he stressed that the evacuation of embassy premises did not signal any change in Egypt's refusal to recognize Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

Eight of the 22 embassies in Kuwait that defied an Iraqi order to shut down and relocate to Baghdad by August 24 have now been forced to announce provisional closures.

Iraq invaded Kuwait August 2 and later annexed the oil-rich emirate.

Embassy Families Leave Cairo

NC1409113190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—A number of family members of diplomats and employees working at the Iraqi Embassy in Cairo have left Cairo this morning on their way to Baghdad.

An official source yesterday said that following contacts between the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and competent authorities, the families of the Iraqi citizens working at the Iraqi Consulate in Cairo have been allowed to travel to Baghdad via Amman.

254,993 Returned From Iraq, Kuwait Since 2 Aug

NC1309154690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport and the man who is also in charge of the operations room set up to serve the citizens returning from Iraq and Kuwait, said that the number of citizens returning by sea yesterday was 5,848. He noted that these passengers brought with them 288 automobiles. They were ferried from al-'Aqabah on three ferries, an Egyptian one that sailed to Nuwaybi' and two Saudi ones that sailed to Suez.

Eng. Mutawalli said that 1,853 citizens were flown home yesterday on 12 flights operated by Saudi, Gulf, and Belgian aircraft. The total number of those who were transported by sea and air since 2 August is 254,993. He noted that 144 flights were made during that period.

Eng. Mutawalli said that particular care is taken to ensure that meals are regularly served to Egyptians at assembly points in al-Ruwayshid, Amman airport, al-'Aqabah port, and Nuwaybi'. He noted that there is no crowding among the citizens returning via Jordan, saying that these citizens are offered transportation as soon as they arrive. Mutawalli noted that a fleet of buses is still available at the Egyptian

assembly points and ports, although it is now operating at less than its capacity in view of the diminishing numbers of returnees.

Eng. Mutawalli noted that the Egyptian medical team working at the assembly points close to the Jordanian borders have been reinforced with additional medical staff to ensure that the returnees receive any medical care they may need as soon as they arrive.

Foreign Ministry Source on Arab League Transfer

NC1309162390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] A well-informed source at the Foreign Ministry has made a statement to our radio reporter about the attempts by Tunisia and the PLO to obstruct the Arab League's council decision to return the Arab League to its permanent headquarters in Egypt. The source said that Egypt has acted according to the rules regulating the work of the Arab League's council. Therefore, Egypt called an emergency meeting of that council in Egypt in order to implement the resolution passed unanimously at the council's meeting in March.

Egypt, the source said, called for that meeting following Iraq's regrettable stands in that connection after its aggression against Kuwait. Egypt, he added, tried to avoid a confrontation with Iraq over the headquarters issue. The source said that the majority of Arab countries agreed to Egypt's request and the meeting was legal and procedurally correct.

The source expressed the hope that the brothers in Tunisia and the PLO would refrain from any actions that may deepen the differences among Arab countries at this juncture, particularly since the Arab states passed a unanimous resolution in March endorsing the return of the Arab League to its permanent headquarters in Egypt.

The source called on all Arab brothers not to embroil the Arab League in their bilateral differences.

Politicians View Tunisian Stance

NC1309143490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—A number of Egyptian political figures have stressed that the Tunisian decision not to transfer the Arab League's General Secretariat to its permanent headquarters in Cairo has no legal or political basis. The resolution to transfer the General Secretariat was passed by a majority of Arab countries at the Baghdad summit, and the recent meeting of the Arab foreign ministers was only in implementation of the Baghdad summit resolution.

In this context, Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi told MENA that Tunisia does not have a sound legal or political argument to oppose the Arab summit's resolution concerning the return of the General Secretariat to Cairo, because such a resolution is binding. Tunisia's stand, he added, is a form of arbitrary rejection that lacks a substantive basis.

Ambassador Hijazi said that the return of the General Secretariat to Egypt is authorized by a procedural resolution passed by the Arab foreign ministers council, and the Tunisian reaction is mere posturing designed as a smokescreen for untenable political positions.

Commenting on the transfer of the General Secretariat to Cairo and Tunisia's rejection of the transfer, Ahmad Hamrush, head of the Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, said that any attempt by Tunisia to block the transfer of the General Secretariat to its permanent headquarters in Cairo will be destructive to Arab solidarity, for the Arab League is the administrative framework serving the Arab countries and these countries should all work for its consolidation and give it their backing. Hamrush wondered how the Arabs can resolve their problems when some of them are trying to demolish the Arab league. [passage omitted]

Al-Baz Criticizes PLO Stand on Gulf Crisis

NC1309153790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0907 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of President Mubarak's office for political affairs, has criticized the PLO's stand on the Gulf crisis and described it as dilute.

He asked: How can the PLO approve of capturing lands by force? This is a fundamental principle of our stand against Israel and we urge it to withdraw from the West Bank, Gaza, and Golan, as we used this principle in Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, he said.

In statements published by the weekly SABAH AL-KHAYR today, he asserted that, without relying on this principle, the Arab cause will weaken and become liable to bargaining.

He emphasized that Arab land and occupied Palestinian land will not be liberated because of Kuwait at all, but through coordination of mental, material, and human resources that will pressure Israel to respond to just Arab demands.

On the presence of foreign forces in the region, al-Baz said the Gulf states could have concluded defense agreements with the United States or other countries but they did not do so because they felt they were not threatened by a non-Arab party. But when the threat came from within and the neighbor [word indistinct], he added, they had to protect their interests, peace, and land. It cannot be said that the issue began with the presence of the American forces, he noted, saying the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is what caused the American forces' presence.

He asked: What was expected of countries with no ability to face the Iraqi military force while the root cause of the scourge is the invasion and the foreign presence is a result of this scourge?

He said: We are against the presence of foreign forces and do not want them in the region. We consider the foreign presence of even a friendly country as a sign of disorder in the system which means a declaration of the Arab system's failure to protect itself.

He cited President Husni Mubarak's address to the [Arab] summit in which he said: "We want this problem solved under an Arab umbrella."

Commenting on the appointment of a new secretary-general of the Arab League, he said: We need a political personality whose role is not just head of an administrative body in the league. This personality calls to mind the initial era of the Arab League's life and the late 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Azzam when he was secretary-general of the Arab League and made this post transcend many honorary posts.

Iraq Conducts 'Terrorist Campaign' in Kuwait

NC1409061890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 14 Sep 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing on the activities of the Kuwaiti national resistance and its effects on the situation inside Iraq, AL-AHRAM said that the Iraqi occupation troops in Kuwait are conducting an organized and regular terrorist campaign against Kuwaiti resistance members, whose activities have increased recently, and against foreign nationals in Kuwait.

According to eyewitnesses, the campaign involves shooting Kuwaitis on the mere suspicion of belonging to the resistance movement, executions in public squares, and a widescale house-to-house search campaigns.

Paper Defends Acts Against 'Fifth Columnists'

NC1409094990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—In an editorial entitled: "The Gulf States' Right to Protect Their Backs," AL-AKHBAR affirms in its Friday [14 September] issue that the Gulf countries have the right to rearrange their cards, protect themselves and their peoples, and purge their lands of the time bombs among them so that the tragedy of the fifth columnists, that surfaced suddenly in Kuwait after the fire had broken out [refernce to Iraqi invasion], might not recur.

The paper emphasizes that all the Gulf states, while facing the same danger to which Kuwait was subjected, must learn the lesson from the tragedy in whose bloody chapters the Palestinian workers and residents in Kuwait have participated from the first moment of the Iraqi invasion, acting as the cat's claws for the Iraq occupation army.

The paper adds that the role of Yasir 'Arafat, who dropped his mask after the crime against Kuwait, has come to confirm the doubts cast on the position of the Palestinians not only in Kuwait, but in all the Arab countries that are hosting, sheltering, and protecting them. These Palestinians have enthusiastically stood behind Saddam Husayn and backed him in his shameful position against the countries that have given him the greatest assistance in his war with Iran.

The paper adds that 'Arafat's role has also confirmed what many people have been saying that these Palestinians received secret instructions in advance from their leader 'Arafat to be ready to act as fifth columnists in the Gulf states in which they live and the secrets about which they know much. This proves, the paper adds, that the Palestinian leader had prior knowledge of Saddam's conspiracy to invade and occupy Kuwait.

Differences With IMF Regarding Rates Settled

NC1409060490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 14 Sep 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR says that differences between Egypt and the IMF over two basic points have been settled. They are: The Egyptian pound's exchange rate and the interest rate for bank loans. It was agreed to free the Egyptian pound's exchange rate gradually and not at one time, as demanded by the IMF. Egypt has affirmed that it insists on keeping the Central Bank's pool of currencies [mujamma' al-'umlat] used for financing the purchase of basic commodities with a view to keeping their prices under control and affordable to the citizens.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

LD1309120190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1114 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Sep (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, who arrived in Tripoli yesterday.

Minister Ends Visit, Leaves

LD1309132790 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad and members of his delegation left Tripoli this morning at the end of their visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Reports Regarding Iraqi Troops, Missiles Denied

LD1309161290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1428 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Belgrade, September 13 (TANJUG)—The Sudanese Embassy in Belgrade denied on Thursday [13 September] reports that Iraqi troops and missiles have been allowed to base in Eastern Sudan.

The statement accuses the disbanded Umma Party of former prime minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and other opposition sources of having launched the disinformation.

Sudan, as member of the United Nations, the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement, is interested in a peaceful settlement of the Gulf Crisis, the statement points out.

Minister Meets OAU's Salim on Refugees Issue

EA1309201590 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Mr. Peter Orach, minister of relief and displaced persons' affairs, reviewed during his meeting today with Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the OAU secretary general, the issues of displaced persons and refugees in the country. He dealt with the efforts being exerted by the government to shelter them. He affirmed that the problem of refugees was primarily a humanitarian problem which necessitated a contribution by the international community. He said Sudan has absorbed the largest influx of refugees in Africa.

About the problem of displaced persons, he said the contribution of donors was not commensurate with their increasing numbers. He reviewed the various services being provided for them and the state's efforts to transfer them to productive sectors.

He explained that the committee of 15 of the OAU will meet on the (?22nd) of this month in Khartoum to discuss the problems of taking refuge in Africa and Sudan in particular, in addition to the meeting which will be held in Geneva on [date indistinct] October.

Libyan Delegation Visits Central Region

EA1309165990 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1023 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Madani 12 September (SUNA)—During his meeting on 11 September with a Libyan delegation from the Commander and Staff College, Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the Revolution Command Council and Central Region governor, affirmed that Libyan-Sudanese cooperation was regarded as a model and an important step for achieving comprehensive Arab unity. He welcomed the delegation to the region to acquaint itself with the work of the Jazirah plan as part of its current visit to the country. He said Sudan was yearning for borders to disappear between Sudan and all Arab states, and between Sudan and Libya in particular.

A representative of the Libyan delegation spoke at the meeting and expressed his thanks for the good reception and hospitality accorded to the delegation by regional officials and officials of the Jazirah plan. He was hopeful for continued meetings between the two brotherly peoples to set up investment projects that will serve them and the Arab nation.

Khalifah Receives Iranian Charge d'Affaires

EA1309204990 Omdourman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and chairman of the Peace and Foreign Affairs Committee, has declared that a Sudanese high-level ministerial delegation will soon visit Iran within the framework of strengthening the relations between the two countries. This came after his excellency's meeting in his office yesterday with Mr. (Kamil Bajid), the Iranian charge d'affaires, during which ways of strengthening relations and developing them further were reviewed.

The Iranian charge d'affaires reaffirmed his country's interest in developing relations in different fields of cooperation between the two countries.

Armed Forces Move Against 'Outlaw' Camps

EA1309180590 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 13 September (SUNA)—The armed forces carried out an operation on 8 September against the outlaw camp in (Kaddah) (?southwest) of Talawdi [southern Kurdufan], managing to destroy the camp and inflict on the outlaws heavy losses in lives and materials. "AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH" of today notes that the outlaws' losses were 10 dead, one G-3 rifle, and a great quantity of ammunition seized. The armed forces also managed to destroy another outlaw camp in the area around the agricultural schemes to the east of Dilling without themselves suffering any losses.

It is worth noting that the outlaw groups returning to [word indistinct] continues [words indistinct] great number to surrender themselves at the village of Sallam, in the Kaduqli area.

SPLA Claims 'Decisive Victory' Over Convoy

EA1309082690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Excerpt] In continuing fighting with the beleaguered enemy convoy that is withdrawing back to Juba after a disastrous failure to rescue Yei, the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] again, yesterday, inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. Fighting started at about

1600 at Mile 30 and lasted three hours. The enemy convoy suffered 21 killed and more than 80 wounded.

Since the enemy convoy started out from Juba on August 4 1990 on their ill-fated attempt to rescue Yei, the so-called Abtal Juba [Juba's heroes] have suffered 119 killed, 324 wounded, three T-62 tanks destroyed and 21 trucks destroyed.

On top of these huge losses the convoy failed in its military mission of the 100-mile journey from Juba to Yei. The convoy managed to reach only Lanya, 63 miles from Juba and 37 miles short of their destination. At Lanya the convoy was forced to withdraw back to Juba and Juba has become as far as the stars.

So the convoy has been for the last 40 days from 4 August 1990 up to today 12 September 1990 moving aimlessly between Juba and Mile 63 and between Mile 63 and Juba. This has been a big defeat for 'Umar al-Bashir and a decisive victory for the SPLA. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

General Colin Powell Arrives in Manama

To Discuss Region

JN1309183090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, 13 Sep (INA)—General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in Manama this evening on a visit to Bahrain for talks with state officials on the latest regional developments and issues of common interest.

Powell was welcomed upon arrival by Chief of Staff Staff Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, U.S. ambassador to Bahrain Charles Hostler, the assistant chief of staff, and some senior officers of the Defense Force.

Received by Amir 14 Sep

JN1409091890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, 14 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, received in Manama today General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs; Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah, minister of interior; Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahamd Al Khalifah, minister of defense and deputy commander in chief of the defense force; Shaykh 'Ali Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah, assistant interior undersecretary for immigration and passports; Staff Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, chief of staff; and Charles Hostler, U.S. ambassador to Bahrain.

Kuwait

Iraqi Troops Seize French Attache, Nationals

AU1409110590 Paris AFP in English 1101 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Paris, Sept 14 (AFP)—Iraqi troops Friday burst into the French ambassador's residence in Kuwait and took away by force the French military attache and three other French nationals, the French Foreign Ministry announced here. The four were taken to an unknown destination, the French Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The French citizens were among those who had been holed up at the ambassador's residence, which is in a separate building from the embassy, since the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The French Government summoned the Iraqi ambassador to France and called for the four to be immediately returned to French authorities.

It is the first time that the Iraqis have entered diplomatic premises in Iraq and taken people away, since ordering diplomatic missions to close last month. But earlier Friday, the Netherlands Foreign Ministry said Iraqi soldiers had entered the Dutch ambassador's residence in Kuwait City Thursday, violating diplomatic immunity. A spokesman said there had been "no violence worth mentioning" in the incident, but gave no details. The Iraqi ambassador in The Hague, Safa al-Falaki, was summoned and given to issue a "firm protest." Western governments had refused an Iraqi order to shut down their embassies and move to Baghdad.

Resistance Source Details Anti-Iraqi Actions

PM1209151990 London AL-ZAHIRAH in Arabic 10 Sep 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Resistance Liberates al-'Umayriyah and Khitan"]

[Text] Kuwait, exclusive—Kuwaiti national resistance movement sources have announced that a force belonging to the resistance has successfully carried out an operation: burning and destroying the Iraqi Embassy building in Kuwait, which was being used as the headquarters of the invading Iraqi forces' command.

A source involved in coordinating resistance activities inside and outside the country has said that the Kuwaiti and Arab volunteers taking part in the Kuwaiti national resistance are receiving very good training on urban warfare and limited engagements.

The source also said that the two huge residential areas of al-'Umayriyah and Khitan have now been liberated and that the Iraqi forces are unable to enter—or are refraining from entering—these two areas, which contain some 5,000 homes.

At present there are 400,000 Kuwaitis inside the country. The Palestinians residing there are collaborating with Iraqi soldiers by informing them of the whereabouts of senior Kuwaitis who are still there.

The sources say that the Palestinians are continuing to work in the banks and stores as usual, whereas the Kuwaitis are continuing their strike.

The resistance command is currently concentrating on providing training for anyone who wishes to join it. Scores of Kuwaiti Army officers in Cairo are going to Saudi Arabia to train resistance members. This process is financed by the Kuwaiti Government. Some 25-30 al-Sabah family members are involved in the resistance movement.

As channels of daily contact with Kuwait are opened, reports have been received about the various resistance tactics being employed.

The source cited two incidents which took place last Saturday and Sunday in two different places. In each incident resistance elements entered a hospital and gave

the staff orange juice and bananas injected with poison and instructed them to generously provide Iraqi soldiers with the juice and bananas as they patrolled the streets under the noon sun.

Among other methods of resistance is the changing of road signs and house numbers to confuse the soldiers. Night attacks on Iraqi guards have become a daily occurrence.

The sources say that many Iraqis have either sold or handed over their arms to the Kuwaitis, who have started to train with them.

Since the invasion day (2 August) over 400 Iraqi soldiers have fled with 50 tanks to Saudi Arabia.

The source said that the government housing projects allocated for low-income groups in Qurayn and al-Fintas have been occupied by Iraqis brought in from their own country.

Although the escalating resistance is having its impact on the Iraqis by the day, the source emphasizes that "the resistance movement is undoubtedly the initial response to the occupation, but Kuwait is preparing for bigger military actions shortly.

Resistance Member Discusses Weapons Supply

PM1309131390 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 10 Sep 90 p 16

[Jasib al-Shamri report: "Latest Heroic Actions—Young Kuwaiti Woman Martyred in Fedayeen Operation After Killing Six of Saddam's Soldiers"]

[Excerpts] Nayif al-Jash'ami, a Kuwaiti resistance member, has said that the resistance is fine, growing daily, and lacking nothing except coordination in the areas where it is based. As for arms and equipment, they are in abundance. We acquire them by one means or another, but I cannot discuss this subject in detail. He pointed out that the resistance is spreading in all areas and all elements are taking part in it. And the Egyptian people are among the founders of the resistance in all areas. All groups of the Kuwaiti people, including women, are participating in the resistance. A young Kuwaiti woman blew herself up the day before yesterday with six Iraqi soldiers.

He added that the al-Jahra' area is cordoned off, and no one can enter or leave it before being thoroughly inspected by Republican Guards, who examine the identity of any person and then check it against a list they have. We do not know what is on the list. Many resistance men have fallen into their hands recently. This is why resistance elements do not leave their homes in daylight at all. Night is the right time for suicide missions and fedayeen operations. [passage omitted]

He added: Although I am proud of the Egyptian people's strong resistance among the resistance ranks or independently in some areas, I feel very sad at the position of a people whom we have embraced all our life, whom we have never denied anything over 25 years, and who sometimes had more rights than the Kuwaitis. [passage omitted]

On the arms available to the resistance, he said that all Kuwaiti areas have become arms arsenals. These arms came from Iraq. The Kuwaiti people are a peaceful people. They did not have arms in the past, but you would be amazed to see the various kinds of arms now available in Kuwait. The resistance does not hesitate to use all kinds of weapons, to the extent that a few days ago one citizen stabbed an Iraqi soldier with his kitchen knife and took his automatic weapon. [passage omitted]

On the Kuwaiti people's position, he said that the Kuwaiti position is united, namely in being determined not to deal with the Iraqi regime and to resist it by everything in our possession. No Kuwaiti has cooperated with it. And I hope that its media tricks will fool no one. They wear dashadish [a loose robe] like us, but when you speak to them you discover that they are Iraqis.

Al-Jash'ami stresses the need to coordinate efforts and to supply the resistance inside the country with food and equipment. Its ranks must be organized so that it can continue. But if the lack of coordination continues, the main concern is that it could decline or even disappear, because the Iraqi troops deal with the resistance in a brutal and bloody war. They retaliate very severely. [passage omitted]

Resistance Operations Against Iraq Intensify

NC1309192890 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] According to reports from occupied Kuwait, the Kuwaiti resistance has intensified its operations against the Iraqi occupation. The reports say that dozens of Iraqi military vehicles were seen burning in Kuwait's streets after successful resistance operations. The reports add that the resistance men riding in Kuwaiti cars fired at Iraqi soldiers and that the resistance operations expanded to include the killing of Iraqi taxicab drivers who came to Kuwait after its ocupation.

Eyewitnesses have stated that a number of Iraqi soldiers have handed over their weapons to the resistance men in return for helping the soldiers hide in Kuwait or flee to Saudi Arabia. Informed sources have stated that bullets fired by the resistance have killed more than 200 Iraqi soldiers since the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait on 2 August.

Communications Minister Hayat Visits Zambia

WA1409125690

For Zambian coverage on the visit to the Republic of Zambia by Minister of Communications Habib Jawhar Hayat, including his meeting with President Kaunda in Lusaka, see the Southern Africa section of the 14 September 1990 and subsequent issues of the Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT.

Qatar

Libya's Al-Kharrubi Meets With Amir Al Thani

Discuss Gulf Solution

LD1209191990 Tripoli JANA in English 1613 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Doha, 12 September, JANA - Arab Maghreb Union's Pool—Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani the Amir of the state of Qatar received yesterday morning Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi who handed him the Libyan initiative announced by the leader of the revolution to solve the Gulf crisis. Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani expressed thanks and appriciation for the efforts the leader of the revolution is exerting towards the causes of the Arab nation.

He confirmed the need to adopt an Arab peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis "because anything other than that means a catastrophe for the Arab nation". The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani the crown prince and the minister of defence in Qatar and 'Abdallah salih al-Mana' the minister of communications and transport in Qatar. Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi has arrived in Doha yesterday morning on a visit to the state of Qatar and was welcomed on his arrival by 'Abdallah Salih al-Mana' the minister of communications and transport in Qatar.

Meets Crown Prince

LD1209192390 Tripoli JANA in English 1614 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Doha, 12 September, JANA—Arab Maghreb Union's Pool—Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi met at noon yesterday in Doha Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani the crown prince and the ministry of defence in Qatar.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Qatari minister of communications, they discussed the consolidation of the fraternal relations and reviewed the Arab nation's issues and causes.

Saudi Arabia

Pakistan's Jatoi Meets Kuwaiti Amir in Al-Ta'if

BK1309153090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi called on Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah in al-Tai'f today. Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-Sabah and Oil Minister Rashid al-'Amiri were also present on the occasion. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Commerce Minister Elahi Bux Sumro and Interior Minister Mian Zahid Sarfraz from the Pakistani side were also present at the meeting. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Finance Minister on Continued Investment

LD1209131590 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The finance minister of the sisterly State of Kuwait, Shaykh 'Ali Khalifa al-Sabah [name as heard], has stressed that the Kuwaiti authorities will continue their investments for the good of the country and the people despite the destruction caused to the internal economy.

In a press statement published today, Wednesday, Shaykh al-Sabah said the unjust Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will not influence the authorities in the administration of finances and the method adopted by them to manage their business abroad. He stressed that when matters are restored to their normal state, God willing, extensive expenditure will be made on reconstruction. He said: We have abundant cash flow, and we will not liquidate any institution. On the contrary, we will help the institutions that may face difficuties.

Foreign Minister Comments on USSR Ties, Gulf

OW1009035190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0245 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah, Sept. 10 KYODO—Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said Sunday that he expects an early establishment of diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union. Sa'ud, in an exclusive interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, said, "There are serious contacts between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union. We expect Riyadh-Moscow official links before the month is out... There is understanding on all issues."

On July 21, Saudi Arabia agreed with China to establish diplomatic ties.

The Saudi Arabian foreign minister is scheduled to visit the Soviet Union later this month.

Commenting on the Helsinki summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, saud said "The two superpowers continue confirmations to abide by United Nations Security Council resolutions." The resolutions called for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and declared Iraq's annexation of Kuwait "null and void."

The United States and the Soviet Union have promised "to take any additional measures needed to secure implementation of these resolutions," he said. Saudi Arabia, which currently hosts the U.S.-led multinational forces, said the foreign forces "are here to defend the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In this framework, they have the instruction to defend themselves."

Asked who has the authority to issue orders to the multinational forces, Sa'ud did not give a clear response, only saying, "There are forces of many countries and there is coordination and cooperation among them."

Commenting on relations with Japan, he said, "No doubt, Japan has an essential role by which it can contribute in achieving security of the region and remove the effects of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait that threatens disasters, not only to the security of the region, but to the world.

"In addition to what Japan has done in this, we expect more support and contribution to implement international decisions through its economic and financial power by either supporting the economic and military embargo imposed on Iraq or by contributing to the expenses of the multinational forces in the region or compensating countries affected by Gulf events."

Prince Sa'ud Denies AFP Story on U.S. Impact

LD1309195190 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Some media have quoted the French news agency story which said that His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, has made statements to a delegation of European parliamentarians on the possible impact on Saudi society of a prolonged presence by the U.S. forces deployed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In denial of that, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal told SPA that this story is fabricated and has no truth in it whatsoever.

Royal Official Denies Story on Schools Opening

LD1309195490 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Fahd Bin Salman Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy governor of the Eastern Region, has denied an Associated Press [AP] story yesterday which quoted him as saying that the opening of schools in the Eastern Region might be postponed. In a statement to SPA, his highness said that what the agency attributed to him has no truth in it whatsoever.

U.S. General Powell Arrives on Two-Day Visit

LD1309220690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2125 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Riyadh al-Dammam, 13 Sep, (SPA)—The chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, General Colin Powell, arrived in Riyadh yesterday, Wednesday, in the evening on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia. He was received by the chief of the General Staff, Staff General Muhammad al-Hammad, and a number of senior officials.

Last night General Powell conferred with Staff General Muhammad al-Hammad, then he met His Royal Highness Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and the operations front, who introduced to General Powell the senior officials of the joint command; then they held a meeting during which they discussed a number of issues.

The chairman of the joint chiefs of staff arrived this morning in the eastern zone where he was received by His Royal Highness Staff Brigadier General Pilot [title as received] Turki Bin Nasir Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, commander of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz air force base, and a number of the senior officers of the zone. The guest visited one of the Saudi fighter squadrons in the base and some of the U.S. units in the zone during his tour today.

Saudis Grant $5 Million for Jordan Refugees

AU1409093090 Rome ANSA in English 0840 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Rome, 14 Sep (ANSA)—Saudi Arabia on Thursday decided to give five million dollars to the International Red Cross for aid to refugees from Iraq and Kuwait now in Jordan, an Italian government spokesman said, citing a letter sent from King Fahd to Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti.

Editorial Reviews Helsinki Lessons for Saddam

PM1409094190 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 11 Sep 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Does Saddam Husayn Understand What He Heard in Helsinki?"]

[Text] The results of the U.S.-Soviet summit held in Helsinki the day before yesterday confirm to Saddam Husayn once again—and probably for the last time—that all the calculations and delusions on which he based his invasion of Kuwait, occupation of its territory, and continuing defiance of the international will are erroneous.

If Saddam Husayn has not been convinced by what he has seen and experienced so far, namely the international consensus inside the United Nations; and if he has not understood the international position strongly emphasizing that there can be no indifference toward the invasion, annexation, occupation, plunder, and looting—this summit has come to remind him of what he has so far failed to understand and to warn him firmly about all that he has failed to understand or tried to ignore.

The U.S.-Soviet summit has confirmed to Saddam Husayn that the world has indeed changed, and that we are in the process of having a new world and a new international order. And if Saddam Husayn based his calculations on the situations and conditions of the Cold War between the two superpowers, the time has come for him to know and realize that the world has announced that Bush and Gorbachev have passed the Gulf test in Helsinki with "excellent" grades and that the Cold War is a thing of the past.

The summit has confirmed to Saddam Husayn that the Soviet position, on which he gambled heavily and tried to exploit, is very decisive with regard to the invasion and aggression, and there is no room for maneuvering around it or trying to exploit it.

The summit has also confirmed to Saddam Husayn that the world, with its two superpowers, is ready to confront his invasion by all means, starting with diplomatic means, then political, economic, and trade sanctions, then military measures, that is, in accordance with the UN Charter. And no option is ruled out until Kuwait is restored free to its people and until its legitimate regime is restored.

The summit has pointed out to Saddam Husayn that the game of talking about the international forces in the region and their threat to Soviet security and interests has failed. The Soviet mentality shown in Helsinki is a new mentality which is aware of what is happening around it, does what it says, and respects the principles to which it is committed.

Soviet interests are no longer ideological aims requiring that the heaviest losses be inflicted on the West even if it comes to supporting falsehood. These interests actually lie in international cooperation for the sake of peace and stability, in achieving the Soviet people's objectives of prosperity, and in adhering to international principles sound for building world stability and deterring any forces of aggression and instability.

The summit has wakened Saddam Husayn from his imaginings about UN incapacity and proved that the superpowers have prepared for that international organization a more effective role in safeguarding world peace and security than the role it has played since its establishment. The two states have been anxious to ensure that all measures against the invasion and occupation are taken within that international organization and under a full international legitimacy that is beyond any doubt.

The summit has confirmed to Saddam Husayn that the world as a whole is seeking a peaceful solution to the crisis on the basis of the Iraqi forces' complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government and the conditions that existed on 1 August.

The summit has confirmed to the world as a whole that, if there is anyone who sprobing, inciting, and beating the drums of war, it is Saddam Husayn, namely by his refusal to withdraw and his insistence on occupying Kuwait and making its people homeless.

The summit has confirmed to Saddam Husayn that his hopes have evaporated if he thought that the passage of time would create gaps for him to break the international embargo and blockade imposed against him and that the world's states would, with the passage of time, relax the implementation of that embargo. The summit has affirmed the commitment to that embargo and demanded all the world's states to adhere to it.

So does Saddam Husayn understand the realities produced by that summit, of which he was unaware or which he deliberately ignored in the past?

Does Saddam Husayn realize after all that has happened that there are collective Arab interests which should be rescued and that there is an Iraqi people who should be protected, spared a confrontation with the entire world, and kept away from the furnaces of battles designed for abortive personal adventures? The Helsinki summit has told Saddam Husayn what he did not want to hear. But will Saddam Husayn understand and realize what he has been unable to understand since the crisis erupted?

Bangladesh President Arrives in Jeddah for Visit

LD1309212190 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Excerpt] His Excellency Mohammad Hussain Ershad, president of the Republic of Bangladesh, arrived in Jeddah this evening on a visit to the kingdom. The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud—may God protect him—welcomed his excellency on arrival at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport. His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz was also there to welcome him. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Meets Afghan Rebel Leader 13 Sep

LD1309200890 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, yesterday evening at his palace received Professor 'Abdul Rasul Sayaf, prime minister of the transitional government of the Afghan mujahidin, accompanied by a number of ministers of the Afghan mujahidin government. [passage omitted]

Comoros Minister Visits King Fahd, Kuwait Amir

EA1309205590 Moroni Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Mr. Mtara Maecha, the minister of foreign affairs, has been in Saudi Arabia since yesterday carrying two messages from President Said Mohamed Djohar addressed respectively to His Majesty King Fahd, the servant of the holy places, and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait. Mr. Mtara Maecha was welcomed on arrival by Mr. (Ibrahim Bin Mathini), minister of state at the Saudi Council of Ministers, and (Hadj Abdallah) consul general of the Comoros in Jiddah. The head of the Comoran diplomacy held an hour-long talk with the Saudi minister of state on the Gulf crisis and bilateral relations. Dr. Mtara Maecha was [word indistinct] received by King Fahd, to whom he delivered the message from the president of the Republic. Tomorrow, he will be received by the amir of Kuwait in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, where the Kuwaiti Government is currently in exile.

United Arab Emirates

Information Minister Interviewed on Gulf Crisis

OW1109035490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0312 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept. 11 KYODO—The Information and Culture Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh Ahmad Bin-Hamid [Al Nuhayyan], said Monday that the possibility of a military attack on Iraq by the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf has become stronger. Bin-Hamid said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE that there is no signs of a withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and that there could be no other choice but military action if peaceful efforts fail.

He said the Arab world cannot cooperate with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn any longer and expressed his hope that the Iraqi President would resign or be removed. The information minister welcomed the fact that U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev confirmed the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions in summit talks in Helsinki on Sunday.

The two superpowers should make efforts for a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis, but it is important that the United States and the Soviet Union did not exclude a military action from their options, he said.

Editorials Assess Bush Congress Speech

NC1309182090 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1610 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 13 Sep (WAM)—Newspaper editorials in the United Arab Emirates highlighted the speech delivered by U.S. President George Bush to Congress yesterday. The papers analyzed the speech and pointed out that it deserves to be carefully read by everyone.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD wrote that the decision to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait has been made on a broad international plane and with a high degree of seriousness that cannot be disputed. The paper said that it was not a coincidence that both Helsinki's statement and Bush's speech underlined new elements in joint international work. U.S.-USSR detente, the paper noted, has become an important guarantee to curtail the ambitions of aggressors who rush recklessly and thoughtlessly into adventures.

The paper wrote: The road of adventure may seem easy at first but it will never be safe. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was unjust and the world will not tolerate this injustice. Occupation is an act of aggression and the international community is not going to give in to aggression or condone it.

The paper said: With Bush's speech, we could see a complete picture emerging of a political resolve to end all the forms of aggression and eliminate the outcome and consequences of that aggression.

The paper concluded by saying that the international community has given the Iraqi regime one option—to withdraw from Kuwait. Unless that regime complies with that option it will find itself at an impasse of its own making and will have to face the inevitable end, the end of aggression and aggressors.

For its part, AL-BAYAN said that the U.S. Administration, backed by an enthusiastic Congress, is clearly determined to thwart the Iraqi aggression. The paper cited the U.S. President as saying: This stand is not a U.S. stand against Iraq; it is the stand of Iraq against the rest of the world. The paper described this remark as an honest portrayal of the crisis. The paper said that Iraq's invasion of its Muslim neighbor has provoked the feelings of small and large countries alike, for it defies the aspirations of all nations for a world in which peace and justice prevail.

AL-BAYAN said that if we take into account the fact that Bush's speech came in the wake of the Helsinki summit, we will understand what Bush meant by his reference to "the establishment of a new world order in a new era, a world free from the threat of terror, more forceful in its search for justice, and more secure in its commitment to peace."

AL-BAYAN concluded its editorial by citing Bush's remark as he thanked Congress for its enthusiastic support of his policies. Bush said: This support will be more crucial in the days ahead. The paper said that no one needs to be exceptionally bright to understand what the days ahead may bring. [passage omitted]

Newspaper Hails U.S.-Soviet 'Convergence of Views'

JN1309185590 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 11 Sep 90 p 1

[Editorial: "A New World"]

[Text] The Arabs and the Third World must dwell on the outcome of the recent Helsinki summit. The clear convergence of views by both Washington and Moscow on the crisis resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait shows the failure of the wager on any possible cracks in the wall of international condemnation for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Some parties wagered on breaking the blockade and weakening the international resolve, which is backed by a massive war machine, to force a withdrawal of the invading troops and return the situation to the pre-2 August state of affairs. This convergence of views also sends a clear message that, from now on, no adventurer can base his calculations on the assumption that his adventure will enjoy the support of a superpower. Adventurers can no longer base their calculations on the assumption that if their adventures were to be opposed by one superpower, they would enjoy the immediate and automatic support of the other superpower.

This state of affairs became a thing of the past with the victory of detente and the burial of the remnants of the cold war. Nowadays, the world is facing a new situation in which the USSR and the United States are standing together to honor international norms and UN conventions. The use of the veto by either of the two superpowers to obstruct UN efforts and plans to resolve international crises might become improbable, once and for all.

Playing the superpowers off one another is no longer possible in view of the harmonious relationship existing between the two superpowers. And here emerges the United Nations and international legitimacy as a safety valve that will safeguard the interests of small states, especially considering that the two superpowers are competing to honor this world body and to adhere to its conventions.

Small states have a vested interest in bolstering the UN role and enhancing its effectiveness. Hence, any indifference to the United Nations or challenge to its resolutions will compel the world to resort to the legitimate use of force to secure the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. Besides, such an indifference and challenge would be a new crime against the international community in general and the Third World in particular, a crime to be added to previous crimes.

Yemen

Tribal Chiefs Pledge Support for King Fahd

PM0709110190 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 2 Sep 90 pp 1, 17

[Unattributed report: Yemeni Tribal Chiefs Tell 'UKAZ: We Are Ready To Defend Kingdom's Territory With Our Blood Against Treason of Saddam and His Followers"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, 'UKAZ, exclusive—Yemeni tribal chiefs have emphasized their total condemnation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and Iraq's threats to the states of the region. They also affirmed their absolute support for King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz custodian of the two holy mosques and all the measures he has taken to protect the kingdom's security and the Islamic holy places.

The Yemeni tribal chiefs expressed to 'UKAZ their total readiness to participate with their money and their blood in defending the kingdom against any threats. They described Saddam Husayn's allegations about the holy land as exposed deception which can only fool the ignorant, emphasizing that the Muslims' holy places are in safe hands. They described Saddam Husayn as being remote from Islam, which forbids Muslims to shed one another's blood and repudiates looting and rape.

The Yemeni tribal chiefs criticized all those who are keeping silent about the truth and are deceived by Saddam's idle promises. They emphasized that the truth is clear and so is falsehood, saying that to keep silent about injustice shows cowardice and vileness.

The Yemeni tribal chiefs described the decisions taken by the kingdom to strengthen its defenses in the face of the Iraqi threats as correct, declaring that history will prove this to be the case because Saddam Husayn has broken all his promises and no one trusts him any longer.

Many of the Yemeni tribal chiefs interviewed by 'UKAZ in Yemen praised Saudi Arabia's aid to the fraternal Yemeni people and the other Arab and Muslim peoples. They stressed that Arab values and nobility prompt all Arabs to stand by the kingdom in the face of falsehood. [passage omitted]

Transport Workers on Boycotting Foreign Transport

JN1109125390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Sanaa, 9 Sep (INA)—The General Union of Transportation and Communication Workers in the Republic of Yemen has decided to boycott the ships, aircraft, and all other means of transport of countries participating in the blockade imposed on Iraq by the forces operating in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula region if they continue their economic blockade on Iraq.

This came in a statement issued by the union after its emergency meeting here today. In its statement, the union affirmed its full commitment to the resolutions adopted in Tunis by the Central Council of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, resolutions calling for boycotting all means of transport belonging to the states whose fleets are being deployed in the region.

In its statement, the union reiterated its position in support of the Iraqi workers and people in their confrontation of the conspiracy which seeks to undermine the sovereignty and security of Iraq and the Arab nation. The union also announced its strong denunciation and condemnation of the imperialist and U.S. forces which seek to carry out a new link in the chain of aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation. The union also called for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops and fleets from the Gulf waters and the Arabian Peninsula, considering that the Gulf issue is an inter-Arab issue that must be resolved through dialogue and under the umbrella of the Arab League.

In its statement, the union stressed that the presence of foreign fleets and troops on Arab land and in Arab waters and the imposition of an economic blockade on Iraq is a serious precedent that endangers regional security. It said this presence is also a conspiracy that seeks to bring Iraq and the Arab nation to its knees, to dominate the Arab region, and to plunder its oil wealth.

A responsible source at the union told an INA correspondent in Sanaa that the union informed the U.S., British, and French embassies accredited in Sanaa of the union's decision to boycott the transport of foreign nations whose fleets and troops are being deployed in the Gulf ar 1 Arabian Peninsula region if the economic blockade on Iraq is maintained.

Government Responds to U.S. Warning on Terrorism

JN1309174790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Iraq holds President Bush personally responsible, and his agent leaders and the Zionist entity jointly responsible, for any aggression against Iraq. It also affirmed that it reserves its right to legitimate defense, reciprocal treatment, and a firm response to these parties if it is exposed to any aggression. This came in the memorandum handed to the U.S. charge d'affaires this evening by Nizar Hamdun, Foreign Ministry under secretary, in response to a memorandum communicated by the U.S. charge d'affaires to the Foreign Ministry under secretary yesterday evening. The following is the text of the Iraqi memorandum:

The Iraqi Government categorically denies the U.S. claim. The U.S. Government and President Bush must expect that the crimes the United States is committing against the Arab nation and the insult it is committing to the Islamic holy places through its occupation of these places will draw a natural reaction from the Arab and Islamic masses.

If the U.S. Administration wants to search for a pretext to commit aggression against Iraq and to shuffle cards before world public opinion, Iraq holds President Bush personally responsible, together with his agents from the leaders who beautified the evil and aggression for him, and the Zionist entity, which ignited conspiracies and aggression in the region, and which is still calling for this. We hold them all jointly responsible. On this basis, Iraq reserves the right of legitimate defense, reciprocal treatment, and a firm response to these parties if it is exposed to any aggression.

The U.S. charge d'affaires handed the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry the following memorandum yesterday evening:

The U.S. Government has learned that some terrorist groups that have centers in Iraq and which enjoy Iraqi support are preparing to embark on attacks against targets belonging to the United States and its friends. If any such attack takes place, President Saddam Husayn should know that the United States will hold him personally responsible for this.

Foodstuffs Donated by Jordanian Workers Arrive

JN1409052290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Fresh foodstuffs and infant milk donated by the Phosphate Workers Union in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the children and proud people of Iraq have arrived in Baghdad. Muhammad al-Habashinah, head of the union delegation, told INA that the request of the betrayer of the two holy mosques for the assistance of the forces of injustice and aggression and for the dispatch of U.S., Zionist, and agent forces to the land of the Koran revelation and of Prophet Muhammad's tomb, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, have nothing to do with Islam and ethics. [passage omitted]

Australia, Canada Condemned for Wheat Nondelivery

JN1309144090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1257 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has stated the following to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

The Ministry of Trade in the Republic of Iraq concluded a contract to purchase two consignments of wheat—60,000 tonnes each, one from Australia and another from Canada—on 12 July 1990 and 1 June 1990 respectively. The two consignments were shipped on 4 August and 11 July respectively.

As is clear, the contracting and shipment formalities were concluded before the date that these two countries issued decisions stating they would comply with the unjust UN Security Council embargo resolutions on Iraq. Moreover, the material in question has a humanitarian aspect, since it represents a basic, significant staple of the Iraqi people's food.

Nevertheless, the Governments of Canada and Australia committed a blatant violation of the most basic rules regarding international cooperation and showed a flagrant neglect of international norms and laws when they asked the two ships carrying the wheat consignments not to unload at the ports scheduled for them, first, and also when they asked these two ships to unload their consignments at Egyptian ports as a gift from them to the agent Husni Mubarak regime to reward it for its treasonous stand, represented by its participation alongside the forces of injustice and aggression in dispatching troops to Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] to help the invading U.S. troops in their aggression against Iraq.

This disgraceful conduct by the Governments of Canada and Australia shows how false the allegations are of big countries and those of agents who seek the protection provided by the bayonets of U.S. imperialism on respect for the sovereignty of states and human rights. We declare our protest and strong condemnation of the behavior of the Canadian and Australian Governments, which constitutes a violation and contravention of their contractual obligations regarding the delivery of basic foodstuffs which were purchased and shipped before the issuance of the U.S. decision exacted from the big powers, the permanent members of the UN Security Council, imposing an economic blockade on Iraq.

Concluding his statement, the trade minister said that these hostile positions will turn against those who took them, and will bolster our indefatigable determination to defend our national and pan-Arab interests, as well as the interests of all developing nations in the Arab and Islamic world in particular and the entire world in

general—the developing nations which are looking forward to affirming their free will and independent decisionmaking to build international economic ties based on mutual benefits and equality.

Egyptian 'Volunteers' Forced To Fight in Kuwait

PM1309143190 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Sep 90 p 1

[Ahmad Bakir report: "Egyptians Forced To Volunteer for Iraqi Army"]

[Text] Al-'Aqabah—People returning from Iraq and Kuwait via Jordan have emphasized that the Egyptians are being forced to volunteer for the Iraqi Army and join the Iraqi forces on the Kuwaiti-Saudi border. Moreover, the Iraqi authorities are forcing the Egyptians who volunteered for the Iraqi Army during the war with Iran to join the Iraqi forces in Kuwait. The Iraqi authorities have opened numerous offices to receive applications from the volunteers. An Egyptian diplomat in Jordan has made known the gravity of this measure, which aims to place Egyptians on the front line should war break out. The Egyptians emphasized that it is difficult for non-Iraqis to obtain their food requirements. Iraq had decided to ration commodities.

Algerian Volunteers Joining Iraqi 'Mujahidin'

JN1309144590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Algiers, 13 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi ambassador in Algiers has affirmed that the overall number of Algerian volunteers might reach the one million mark very soon. In a statement published in the AL-BADIL newspaper today, the Iraqi ambassador said that each day the Iraqi Embassy receives a large number of applications from Algerians to join the ranks of the mujahidin in Iraq. Special forms have been prepared at the request and insistence of the volunteers to participate in the defense of the Arab lands and the Islamic holy places. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Meets With Arab Youth Delegation

JN1309125990 Baghdad INA in English 1820 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 12 INA—Arabs student and youth organizations and unions have hailed the heroic stances of the Iraqi people in its confrontation with the imperialist-Zionist brutal attack aimed against Iraq and the Arab nation.

In a statement received by Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier during his meeting with a delegation of the Arab youth union today, they confirmed their stand in the forward lines beside the Iraqi people to encounter the imperialist-Zionist attack aimed at bringing our Arab nation to its knees and subjugating it to predominance and capture destinies of the Arab people in its present and future.

The statement denounced the traitorous role of some Arab agent regimes that invited the American and foreign troops to the Arab sacred lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] in order to carry out an aggression on Iraq and impose an economic blockade on its people.

The statement has also voiced readiness of the Arab student and youth organizations and unions to adopt all forms of struggle and step it up in the way consolidating struggle of stone-throwers in occupied Palestine and guaranteeing the undermining of Zionist liquidationist schemes and plots aimed at announcing new schemes for suspect military alliances in the region.

'Ulema Call for 'Holy Jihad' Against Foreigners

JN1309143090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The commisssion of senior Iraqi 'ulema today issued a religious ruling in which it called upon all Muslims to embrace holy jihad so as to deter the dangers that have threatened the homelands and the sanctities and are beginning to encroach upon honor as a result of the presence of the invading U.S. forces in the land of Najd and Hejaz. [Saudi Arabia]

The following is the text of the ruling: The commission of senior 'ulema in Iraq met on Wednesday, 23 Safar 1911 Hegira, corresponding to 12 September 1990. They discussed two issues: The first is seeking to protect the infidel against the Muslim, and the issuing of rulings to justify this action on the grounds of the permissibility of seeking protection of parties with whom one has signed an agreement. The second is the use of the foreign invading forces of Arab Muslim women from some Arab and Islamic countries to serve them and entertain their soldiers, as reported by Arab and world news agencies, and the Bangladesh newspaper SANGBAD.

We say, and may God grant us success: As for seeking the protection of the infidel against the Muslim, even if this was done in accordance with an agreement with the infidels, it is categorically impermissible because it contravenes definite Islamic rulings which say that the Muslim should not be under the tutelage of the infidel, and that whoever permits this is departing from definite rulings and violating the consensus of Muslim scholars. "And never will God grant to the unbelievers a way to triumph over the believers." [Koranic verse]

As for using Arab Muslim girls to attend to the infidel foreign forces, it is rejected by religion, mind, and honor. It also contradicts with the objectives of Islamic shari'a, foremost of which is safeguarding honor.

Therefore, it is the duty of all Muslims, as mandated by the shari'a, to embrace holy jihad so as to deter these

dangers which have desecrated homelands and holy places and begun to infringe upon honor. May God grant us success.

Islamic Movement Leader Cables Support for Saddam

JN1309193390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis, stating that the message that his excellency addressed to the Soviet and American presidents has stirred the emotions of all believers and has refuted the arguments of all hypocrites, leaders who are sick in their hearts, and other opportunists.

Al-Tamimi condemned the aggressive stance taken by the United States and its allies from the rulers such as Husni, the agent, and Fahd, the traitor, against Iraq—the steadfast bastion in the face of the conspiracies of the enemies and their evil. He noted that those enemies want the Arab and Islamic nation to remain fragmented so that it will be easy for them to plot against it, isolate it, and plunder its wealth. He affirmed the support of Muslims everywhere for Iraq and its lofty people in confronting this brutal onslaught.

Popular Islamic Conference Disputes Mecca Rulings

JN1409102690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Sep 90

["Appeal" issued by the Popular Islamic Conference; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Appeal from the Popular Islamic Conference to the 'ulema of the Islamic nation.

O 'ulema of the Islamic nation, O masses of the Islamic nation: The General Secretariat of the Popular Islamic Conference has followed the meeting held by certain state legists [fuqaha' al-sulutat] under the canopy of the betrayer of the two holy mosques in holy Mecca and read the participants' speeches and rulings, which are shameful to every Muslim who is zealous of his religion and faith, and the interests of his nation.

Instead of considering the dangers and challenges threatening the nation's existence and demeaning its holiest places in a manner that is unprecedented since the dawn of Islam because of what the betrayer of the two holy mosques did in bringing the hordes of infidels to occupy the Arabian Peninsula, the 'ulema discussed marginal issues which have no impact whatsoever on this impending danger and the obvious violation of our religion. Instead of performing their duty to God by warning their rulers of the serious consequences of their despicable actions, which are contrary to God's holy book which warns us against these infidels: "They are but friends and protectors of each other" and "Amongst you that turns to them (for friendship) is of them. Verily God guideth not a people unjust" [Koranic verses] and the advice of the prophet, may the peace and blessings of God be upon, was: Expel the infidels from the Arabian Peninsula; we say, instead of performing their duty, the 'ulema went about searching for poor excuses and weak justifications which cannot deceive anyone who has the slightest knowledge of the Shari'a. For instance, the so-called Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq [rector of al-Azhar University] claimed that it was permissible to enlist the help of infidels by considering them as allies [mu'ahidin: a term applied to unbelievers with whom a Muslim concludes a deal or peace]. This fallacy cannot be considered. It has no root in the Holy Book or in the prophet's traditions. He knows full well that he is an ally [mu'ahidun] of the Jews in the usurper Israeli entity. His words are crystal clear. They indicate a desire to legalize the enlisting of the help of the Israeli entity against the Muslims in Iraq. What a waste of education, religion, and legists.

We know that the 'ulema in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] are being exposed to the severest forms of harassment, punishment, imprisonment, and expulsion for their sincere defense of what is right as God ordered them to do. The 'ulema of the Islamic nation in the east and the west call upon the 'ulema of Najd and Hejaz and the 'ulema who are driven to these conferences organized by the departments of the regime of agentry in Najd and Hejaz or other quarters, to fear God in their rulings, endure patiently for the sake of what is right, and remember that they are the heirs of the prophets. May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

'Aziz, 'Arafat Discuss U.S. Presence in Gulf

JN1309105290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, conferred with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat today.

They discussed the situation in the region in light of the U.S. and Zionist presence in the Arab land and the holy places in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the threats this presence poses to pan-Arab security and peace in the region and the world at large. They also discussed Arab and international issues of common concern.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abdallah Hurani, and the Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

Labor Official Meets Sri Lankan Counterpart

JN1109135190 Baghdad INA in English 1037 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 9, INA—The Labor and Social Affairs undersecretary met here today the Sri Lanka

minister of labor and social services and his accompanying delegation currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, cooperation relations in field of social affairs and aspects of boosting them for the service of both countries were discussed.

The undersecretary reviewed historic truths which confirmed that Kuwait was part of Iraq pointing out to the role of the British colonization in severing this part from Iraq at the beginning of this century.

Minister Warns Against Disposal of Kuwaiti Assets

JN1309134290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—Muhammad Mahdi Salih, acting finance minister, has said that liquid and frozen assets, deposits in the banks of Arab and foreign countries, other funds, and the property in these countries that belong to the former government of Kuwait—to al-Sabah, and the former ministers in that government—have become the property of the Government of the Republic of Iraq as of 8 August, the date of the announced unity between Iraq and Kuwait.

In a statement to INA, Salih said these funds are pure Iraqi funds and no party has the right of disposal over these funds unless this party has an authorization from the competent Iraqi authorities. Any authorization that grants the right of disposal over these funds issued before 8 August is considered invalid. And any authorization issued after this date by any party that is not authorized by the law is considered null and void.

The acting finance minister said that the Finance Ministry in the Republic of Iraq would like also to assert that any disposal of these assets by Arab or foreign governments, banks, and institutions or any natural or corporate person who has in his possession any funds or assets of those mentioned will result in these sides being held fully and legal responsibile, and this will be considered an encroachment on the funds and rights of the Government of the Republic of Iraq which maintains its full rights to these funds and to the rights and interests resulting therefrom.

RCC Allows Cultivation of State-Owned Land

JN1209100090 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Sep 90 p 5

[Excerpt] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided that state-owned agricultural land that is free of usufructuary rights and lease contracts, and that is not distributed [to citizens], shall be exploited in the best possible way by nonmilitary citizens and civilian state employees through planting them with wheat, maize, and rice. In accordance with the decision, citizens who cultivate the land shall be exempt from paying rent for five years. [passage omitted]

More Areas of Land Allocated for Wheat, Barley

JN1009195990 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Sep 90 p 9

[Text] An area of 514,803 donums of agricultural land in Dhi Qar Governorate has been allocated for wheat and barley during the next winter season. In a statement to the INA correspondent in the governorate, the director of the department of agriculture and irrigation in the governorate said that 470,000 donums were allocated for barley and 44,803 donums for wheat.

He also said that the land allocated for this purpose is more than that which was used during the last agricultural season by 31,000 donums. He also pointed out that 73,416 donums of agricultural land were leased to farmers and agricultural investors.

Contest Held To Devise Alternative Poultry Feed

JN1009195590 Baghdad in Arabic 7 Sep 90 p 7

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has called for entries from the public for a competition to devise local alternative components for poultry feed, subject to these components being available in the country in the required amounts, to the exclusion of flour, barley, maize, and soybeans.

A ministry source set 20 September as the deadline for accepting entries and said the first prize will be 100,000 Iraqi dinars.

Official Urges Increased Production, Conservation

JN1109092790 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 7 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] The Iraqi peasants have underscored their rallying behind the leadership of President Saddam Husayn to foil the economic blockade and defend the soil of the homeland. They also underlined their readiness to go all out and redouble efforts to increase production and achieve self-sufficiency in food materials.

This came in an expanded meeting of the Central Council of the General Union of Peasant Cooperative Societies yesterday. The meeting discussed the farmers' national role and responsibility in bolstering the economy in light of the leader president's numerous gifts, such as raising the price of crops and grain [purchased by the state] and reducing the price of seeds and fertilizers. The meeting discussed the possibility of expanding areas set for agriculture in the governorates and investing all agricultural land.

Comrade Mizban Khadr Hadi, member of the Regional Command and secretary of the Central Bureau for Professional and Popular Organization, delivered a speech at the opening session. He saluted the peasants' good efforts toward embodying the valuable directives of leader President Saddam Husayn, which aim to increase

production and help Iraq stand fast in the face of the challenges and conspiratorial schemes against our beloved Iraq.

He reviewed the dimensions of the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy, which is backed up by a number of Arab rulers who deviated from the nation's will and glorious history. He stressed the importance of the peasants organization shouldering its responsibility in full in terms of professional activity and production and making qualitative leaps toward self-sufficiency by the optimal use of all lands fit for cultivation and devotion of all energies to the achievement of this goal.

He stressed the importance of rationing expenditures, economizing on consumption, adopting new militant formulas in daily life, and associating between production and militancy.

As an encouragement, The Central Council decided to award agricultural production badges to individuals and peasant societies that distinguish themselves in terms of quality and quantity.

Price of Fertilizers Reduced for Farmers

JN1109113490 Baghdad INA in English 0915 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 11, INA—Ministry of Industry has secured all kinds of chemical fertilizers necessary for the success of the agricultural campaign, said Minister of Industry Mr. Husayn Kamil Hasan.

He also said the Ministry has prepared all production requirements necessary for the flow of fertilizers in large quantities to the farmers.

The minister referred to the support given to farmers by reducing the prices of fertilizers to 20 per cent besides the latest reduction that amounts to ten Iraqi dinars per ton.

More POW's Exchanged With Iran

33d Group

JN1309104990 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The 33d group of Iraqi Prisoners of War [POW's] returning to the homeland arrived at the POW reception center at the al-Mundhiriyah border area at dawn today. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, A new group of Iranian POW's has been handed over pursuant to leader President Saddam Husayn's message and his humanitarian and peaceful initiative.

34th Group

JN1309153990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—The 34th group of the Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] arrived at the al-Mundhiriyah border area this evening. An official and popular reception was held for the POW's, in which vocational and popular organizations as well as a large crowd of people participated.

Meanwhile, a new group of the Iranian POW's, which Iraq decided to release pursuant to President Saddam Husayn's humanitarian initiative, has been handed over.

35th Group

JN1309190590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The 35th group of the Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] returning to the homeland arrived at the POW reception center at the border area at 1900 today. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a new group of the Iranian POW's, whom Iraq decided to release pursuant to the leader president's humanitarian initiative, was handed over this evening.

Moda'i, Ne'eman To Confer With Gorbachev 15 Sep

TA1409053190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and Science Minister Yuval Ne'eman will confer with Mikhail Gorbachev in the Kremlin tomorrow. Both ministers departed Israel this morning en route to the Soviet Union. This has been learned by our correspondent Merom Tzur, who is accompanying the ministers on their trip. The meeting comes after talks between the Soviet leader and Professor Eliyahu Zemtsov, an aide to the science minister.

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem cannot confirm that Ministers Moda'i and Ne'eman will confer with Gorbachev in Moscow. Our political correspondent reports that Foreign Minister David Levi had foreknowledge of the planned trip to the Soviet Union by Moda'i and Ne'eman.

Knesset Summons Mosad Chief on Ostrovsky Affair

TA1409115390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] The Ostrovsky affair is reaching the Knesset. The head of the Mosad has been summoned to a special session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee's Subcommittee for Secret Services early next week. Eliahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, will ask the Mosad boss for explanations about the repercussions of the affair, its legal aspects, and other related issues. Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that only four Knesset members belong to the Subcommittee for Secret Services: Ben-Elisar, Shlomo Hilel, Yehoshu'a Saguy, and Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer. By the way, Ben- Eli'ezer is currently in Canada, where Victor Ostrosvky reportedly lives.

New Economic Plan, Reactions Reported

TA1409090890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Sep 90 pp 1, 17

[Report by Ziv Hellman]

[Excerpts] The cabinet yesterday unanimously approved Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i's economic plan, which is a major step in reforming the economy and reducing government involvement in it.

Provisions of the plan require Knesset approval. This will probably be obtained only after concessions have been made to various interest groups, notably the Histadrut, farm product traders, the tourism industry and stockbrokers. Labour party leader Shim'on Peres has already declared that the plan will not be adopted.

The plan aims to lower real wages, greatly reduce the government's role in the capital and foreign exchange markets, expose the economy to foreign imports, and reduce wage and price linkages. [passage omitted]

Moda'i stated that the plan aims to attract sufficient investment to the economy to enable it to expand by 8.5 percent a year, while creating half a million jobs for new immigrants over the next five years. [passage omitted]

Bank of Israel officials called the removal of credit ceilings, which currently limit the credit market to $900 million, a positive step. The lifting of restrictions on money deposits and of controls on capital flows will enhance the efficient administration of financial transactions, reduce interest rates and provide the economy with new sources of investment. [passage omitted]

Chairman of the Manufacturers Association Dov Lautman expressed doubts that the plan will truly increase employment opportunities over the next two years. He criticized the long-term approach of the plan. He also said it is vital to immediately enhance the competitiveness of Israeli industry and to reduce labor costs in foreign currency terms. [passage omitted]

Economic experts said yesterday that although Moda'i's plan was a step in the right direction, it fell short of the type of measures that must be implemented. Some of them dismissed the Treasury's talk of $40 billion of investment and 10 percent annual business sector growth in the next five years as "nonsense." They complained Moda'i neglected the deterioration of Israel's physical infrastructure while failing to state who will shoulder the burden of the economy's ills. [passage omitted]

Dani Gillerman, president of the Israel Chambers of Commerce, praised Moda'i for attempting to do away with economy-wide distortions and discriminations and said that he foresees a period of strong growth for the economy, reaching levels unknown here since 1973. He expects investments to grow by 25 percent this year and 45 percent in 1991, with private consumption and exports rising by 8 percent by next year.

On the down side, he predicted that the trade deficit will grow by 80 percent next year, and unemployment and inflation will remain stable at high levels.

Gillerman was disappointed that not enough was done to reduce labor costs, saying that the failure to cut employer taxes was a serious flaw.

[A report by Jacob Wirtschafter on page 17 of the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST adds: "'It has no arms, no legs and no head,' charged senior Histadrut official Hayim Haberfeld, as the labor movement offered its first assessment of the Finance Ministry's economic plan for the absorption of Soviet immigrants.

["But, while the plan may suffer from a lack of limbs, Histadrut reaction appears to be emanating from two mouths.

["'We are not rejecting the entire plan,' insisted Histadrut General Secretary Yisra'el Qeysar. Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i's attempts to change the criteria for

disbursement of unemployment compensation came in for praise from Qeysar, but he found little else to say in defense of the plan.

["'The main aim is to create investment and jobs. Obviously, the plan will be subject to changes, depending on the actions of the Knesset and outside players, including foreign banks, and the American government,' observed the union leader.

["Qeysar's calm in the face of a plan impinging on many Histadrut interests appears to be founded on a realistic assessment of the long political odds for its adoption.

["'There are significant elements within the governing coalition, including SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], for instance that have serious objections to the plan,' Qeysar told reporters at a special press briefing yesterday.

["But while Knesset Member Qeysar is responding to the plan in the context of coalition and class politics, trade union department chief Haberfeld's visceral reaction reflects the union's increasing disaffection with the way Moda'i conducts business with the Histadrut.

["'The finance minister is proposing policies that effectively break signed labor agreements,' complained Haberfeld, who may have already given up on the hope of signing a collective wage agreement with Moda'i.

["The top trade union leadership says Moda'i's aim of reducing real wages makes signing such an agreement impossible. Union negotiators believe the Finance Ministry aims to eventually eliminate cost-of-living increases."]

The following is a breakdown of the economic plan approved yesterday by the cabinet. All proposals require Knesset approval.

In the labor market:

—The minimum wage for a new worker will be 80 percent of the regular minimal wage for his first six months. Financially troubled sectors may hire workers at below-minimum wages—subject to approval of the Labor Ministry and the Treasury.
—All fringe benefits will be considered part of the minimum wage.
—Minimum wage will be updated yearly, and hikes will equal 75 percent of increases in the price index.
—Workers up to age 30 receiving unemployment benefits may not refuse a job offer. Job offer within 60 kilometers of home must be accepted. Seasonal workers may not refuse a job offer.
—Employees who quit voluntarily must wait 90 days for unemployment benefits, up from 30 days.
—Unemployment benefits will be based on 65 percent of the former salary, not 80 percent.
—Beneficiaries will be required to do some public work.
—Private-sector wages will no longer be linked to public-sector wages.
—Laws regulating night work are to be suspended.
—NII [National Insurance Institute] payments by employers and small businesses will be reduced by 4 percent.
—Private employment agencies may operate legally.

In the capital and foreign currency markets:

—Pension funds will be required to hold only 50 percent of their capital in government bonds, down from 65 percent; 25 percent must be held in investments that are not stocks or bonds.
—Controls on bank savings plans are to be lifted.
—The Treasury will no longer offer bonds at special rates.
—Closed trust funds will be permitted and may invest in real estate and other forms of investment.
—Israeli residents may obtain loans from abroad for a minimal period of six months, down from a year.
—Exporters may hold foreign earnings in foreign currency in Israel.
—Branches of Israeli banks abroad may give loans to Israeli residents. Israeli banks may guarantee loans taken by Israelis abroad.
—Taxation on interest payments on foreign loans is abolished.
—Ceilings on credit in foreign currency are abolished.

Taxation on capital gains:

—Net profits from bonds traded on the bourse, interest and savings plans will be taxed at a flat 20 percent rate.
—Corporate capital gains on stock-market trades will be taxed.
—Purchase taxes will be levied on homes built by their owners.
—Capital gains taxes will apply to apartments over NIS [New Israeli shekel] 600,000.

Opening the Israeli economy to foreign competition:

—Administrative controls on imports will be abolished.
—Protective tariffs for items shipped through a third country will be established. These tariffs will be gradually reduced over five years.

Budgetary decisions:

—The 1992 fiscal year will run from January 1 until December 31.
—The 1991 fiscal year will be nine months, from April 1 to December 31.
—A supplementary budget for 1990 will be requested.

Indirect taxation:

—Employee taxes on non-profit organizations will rise from 6.7 percent to 8 percent.
—VAT will be extended to cover fruit and vegetables and tourist services.
—Taxes on imported services will be lowered from 7.5 percent to 4 percent.
—Cigarette purchase taxes will be raised by 16 percent.
—Beer purchase taxes will be raised to 40 percent.
—Purchase taxes on building materials and tires will be reduced.

Tzomet Demands Electoral Bill Be Passed by 20 Nov

TA1409095290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Tzomet movement leaders have presented an ultimatum to Likud leaders regarding passage of the electoral reform bill: The bill should be passed in the Knesset by 20 November. In a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Likud Faction Chairman Sara Doron, Minister Refa'el Eytan and Knesset Member Yo'ash Tzidon contend that Tzomet had pledged to have the bill passed within three months of the establishment of the government, and that it plans to stand by its pledge. Tzomet leaders have requested that the prime minister speed up the discussion of the bill in the Knesset's Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee so as not to challenge Tzomet's credibility. According to our correspondent Yaron Deqel, Tzomet explained that the Knesset recess was not included in the three-month period mentioned in its ultimatum.

Commentary Urges No Write-Off of Debt to U.S.

TA1309124590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Sep 90 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "There Are Those Who Are Jealous of Bankruptcies"]

[Text] Moshe Arens preceded David Levi in the chase to get the Patriot missile, and when it appeared during Levi's visit that the guarantee for aliyah funding was politically explosive, the request to write off Israel's debt to the United States became the latest quarry in the ministers' pilgrimage to Washington.

The administration's decision to ask Congress to waive Egypt's $7 billion debt paved the way for Israel's friends to demand a similar gesture regarding Israel's debt to the United States, which totals $4.5 billion (after part of the debt was converted into loans bearing easier interest terms from private banks). On the face of it, there is no more natural or justified request. For years, Egypt has benefited from the fact that its aid from the United States was linked to whatever Israel received. Why then should the linkage not work the other way around as well?

The question must first be answered with another question: Should Israel be jealous of the bankrupt status given Egypt entailed in the write-off? In his testimony to Congress last week Secretary of State James Baker said that Egypt has been incapable of paying off its debts for a long time. Therefore, writing off the debt is merely the U.S. Administration's internal creative accounting after acknowledging reality.

A country that needs a moratorium on its debts pays a heavy price in international money markets, since banks do not rush to open their vaults to customers who have earned the reputation of being insolvent. The United States itself usually punishes countries that belong to that dubious club by freezing civilian aid.

The writing off of Egypt's debt is aimed, among other things, at removing an obstacle against additional aid to Egypt, something the United States is interested in now more than ever. In doing so, it wishes to demonstrate its commitment to its allies in the region, especially those which supported it in the overt struggle against Saddam Husayn. Israel will also indirectly gain from that. As long as the United States is interested in helping President Mubarak's regime to extricate itself from its economic-social hardships, Israel is also assured that it will not lack U.S. aid.

Whoever calls for the waiving of Israel's debt by using an argument about absolute symmetry should remember that in 1985 Egypt did not receive a special grant of $1.5 billion in emergency aid which helped Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Moda'i rescue the economy from the grave crisis it was in at that time. Egypt tried to attach itself to the bandwagon of the one-time bonus handed to Israel, but the Americans feigned deafness. On the eve of important congressional elections, it would be difficult for the politicians to ignore Jewish lobbyists in Washington who received a green light from Jerusalem to work for the writing off of the debt.

Senior Foreign Ministry echelons have expressed concern that in the excitement of the ministers' race for momentary popularity, Israel might also lose the basis for receiving civilian aid. Under U.S. law (the Cranston amendment), the annual aid granted to Israel cannot be less than the amount of Israel's annual debt repayment to the United States. If the debt is written off, which has been explained by the need to make it easier to repay Israel's debt to the United States, there will no longer be any basis at all for aid. The lobbying to get the debt waived might be seen by those in the United States who question the need for civilian aid to Israel anyway as justification for their actions.

The most convincing argument I heard against the government's effort to have a moratorium declared on Israel's debt came from Dan Halperin, who for seven years served as economic counselor at the Israeli Embassy in Washington. There is no chance that the United States will write off that debt, and it is a pity to waste energy on an operation whose failure is assured from the start.

The United States justifies the moratorium on the Egyptian debt as an exceptional move for a country sunk into an exceptional situation. The waiving of the Israeli debt would invite a long list of debtors such as Turkey, whose economy was seriously damaged by the Gulf crisis, to ask for the same.

This crisis is also taking its toll on the Israeli economy. It is not only that Israel is bearing the burden of the continued alert, it must also fund military procurement in order to maintain strategic parity with neighbors like Saudi Arabia—which receives enormous quantities of sophisticated arms—and at the same time is forced to pay more for oil, which is all imported. These unplanned

expenditures and the special requirements needed to absorb the aliyah wave will lead the government to go begging to the U.S. coffers.

The aid can be adapted to Israel's needs, such as an arrangement to lease equipment under improved conditions or an additional grant of $500 million, which would offset the return of the annual debt. The problem is that in order to receive it the government must promise that not a single U.S. cent crosses the Green Line.

U.S. Fails To Agree to 'Urgent' Defense Requests

TA1409111090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Sep 90 p A3

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Excerpt] The U.S. Administration has not approved some of the urgent procurement requests made recently by David 'Ivri, director general of the Defense Ministry. Those include the Israeli request for additional fighter planes beyond those already agreed upon as part of the procurement deal called "Peace Marvel 4." The defense establishment's plan was to receive U.S. approval for the urgent transfer of aircraft no longer operational in its Air Force.

The supply of 60 F-16's, to which U.S. Ambassador William Brown referred Wednesday during the ceremony for the Apache helicopters, was agreed upon a long time ago and is not connected to Israel's latest procurement requests. Though the United States agreed to send Saudi Arabia 24 F-15's no longer used by its Air Force and later an additional 12 such planes, it has not shown any inclination to do the same for Israel.

The defense establishment's arguments about the urgency of procuring additional fighters to enable the Israeli Air Force to improve its deployment in the face of the developing threats from the east did not convince the Pentagon to agree to the Israeli requests.

The administration will probably agree to provide the Air Force with 10 used Yas'ur [Sikorsky CH-53] transport helicopters that had been used by the U.S. Air Force and has agreed to transfer to Israel jeeps from its stockpiles.

All the remaining equipment Washington has agreed to provide Israel comes from deals not based on existing U.S. inventories, although in some cases it is prepared to expedite the supply process and the signing of the contracts. This refers to weapons systems for the Air, Navy, and Ground Forces manufactured as part of routine arms deals. These include air-to-air missiles, electronic warfare systems, and various warfare systems for the Navy and Ground Forces.

The interesting innovation in these deals will be the supply of light Stinger surface-to-air missiles. These excellent missiles caused a great deal of damage to Soviet air forces during the fighting in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Bush Address 'Clear Threat' to Iraq, Arab World

TA1309152590 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Sep 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Bush's Threats...and Baker's Initiatives!"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's speech to Congress two nights ago, in which he said that the United States "will remain a force in the Gulf long after the crisis ends" and that it will not allow anyone to threaten the "new emerging international order," is tantamount to a clear threat to Iraq in particular and the Arab world in general. The new international order Bush is talking about means a U.S. military presence in the Gulf for a long period and the drawing up of a new map of the region according to Washington's and Moscow's perception, as pointed out in the Helsinki summit statement which spoke about "regional security structures" in the region at a time when the United States has publicly declared its intention to set up an Arab alliance under the slogan of "securing stability in the region."

The new U.S. threats coincide with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Syria today which will begin with a Soviet welcome. This visit clearly proves that Washington is moving ahead with achieving the goals that Bush has specified, foremost of which is the attempt to hammer out the new alliance in the region to serve what the U.S. President calls "vital principles and interests, particularly the flow of oil."

The leaks and rumors emanating from Washington and indicating that Baker intends to discuss a Syrian-Israeli reconciliation plan in Damascus are no more than an attempt to throw sand into the eyes. Even if we were to assume that Washington is really serious about such a plan, it will not exceed new arrangements within the framework of the U.S. scheme, which is divorced from real Arab interests. Bush believes that the "Gulf crisis offers a unique opportunity to advance toward a historic era of cooperation." Apparently the two superpowers waited a long time for this opportunity, which was not available before, for cooperating and establishing security and stability! This comes at the same time the region's nations have been suffering for decades from real problems, foremost of which is the Palestinian problem, in which Bush saw no "opportunity" for cooperation even though it is the basis of the various wars we have witnessed. Moreover, Washington's first and foremost concern in the region is the protection of its "vital interests," represented in the continued flow of oil, with ease and abundance and according to the conditions dictated by Washington.

Bush's threats, Baker's initiatives, and Moscow's "cooperation" will neither serve peace and stability in the region nor international peace and stability and the international order, which basically should be founded on the charters of international legitimacy and respect for the sovereignty of the region's nations over their national soil. These threats and initiatives only serve the U.S. scheme in the region, which converges on several

points with "Western interests" and "Soviet economic interests." This is what Bush calls the "new international order," which uses the institutions of international legitimacy as a cover to conceal its true nature.

Will the Arabs realize this?

First Greek Ambassador Presents Credentials

TA1309132490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Greece's first ambassador to Israel presented his credentials to President Herzog this morning. Ambassador Konstandinos Tzotos expressed the hope that he would be able to contribute to the improvement of ties between the two countries, despite past difficulties. Before coming to Israel, Tzotos was his country's ambassador to Kuwait.

Clashes, Incidents Reported in Territories

10 September

TA1109133890

[Editorial Report] Writing on page 10 of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 11 September, Matthew Seriphs reports: "Yasir al-Buraqi, 11, of Khan Yunus lost a leg and a hand, and his sister, Rida'ina, 8, was in shock with serious shrapnel wounds when the hand grenade they were playing with yesterday morning exploded. Both were being treated in Khan Yunus' al-Nasir Hospital. An 'old grenade' of Czech origin caused the explosion, the army said."

"The Gaza military court sentenced Usamah Hassuna, 21, of Gaza, to life plus 15 years, after he was convicted of killing 'informers,' and of membership in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Hassuna tortured one victim, before killing him with poison.

"Staff at Gaza's al-Ahali Arab Hospital went on strike for 24 hours, after six youths attacked and severely beat a nurse for being a member of the Communist Party, Palestinians said. The youths said they were Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, and that the attack was part of an internal conflict.

"Hamas activists attacked Communists last week in Jabalyah refugee camp, Palestinians said. Afterwards, Communists apparently went to the homes of Hamas leaders in the camp to warn them to stop the attacks. One source said the Communist Party was very weak, with only 100 members in the Strip."

"A border policeman and a soldier were injured by stones in the strip yesterday, the army said."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 11 September in a page A5 report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin quotes military sources as saying that "Rafidiyah Hospital in Nabulus yesterday admitted a resident of the Janin District village of Jalqamus, who had been critically wounded in the chest by unknown persons. No soldiers were present in the village when the man sustained the injury."

The report adds that "Palestinian sources reported disturbances in the Strip and clashes between youths and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops, mainly in refugee camps and Gaza city. According to the Palestinian sources, three residents were wounded in the clashes: two in Khan Yunus and one in Gaza."

Another page 5 HA'ARETZ report by Moshe Reinfeld states that "a 17-year-old youth from Jerusalem's Shu'fat neighborhood, who had been active in a strike committee, was sentenced by Jerusalem District Court to two and one-half years in prison and an 18-month suspended sentence. He was convicted of a series of attacks in the Old City of Jerusalem, including arson, bottle and stone throwing, and attacks against policemen." The report adds that "the youth will also have to pay the sum of 1,000 shekels as compensation to Jewish Quarter resident Nahman Kahane for pain and suffering he endured as a result of an injury inflicted by a stone thrown by the defendant."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 11 September reports that "the IDF last night tore down the house of Ibrahim Habas from the village of Yattah in the southern Hebron Hills. Habas is suspected of membership in the village strike forces, which he supplied with weapons, and with planning the murder of an Arab he suspected of collaborating with the authorities."

11 September

TA1209160490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Sep 90 p 12

[Report by Matthew Seriphs and Jon Immanuel]

[Text] The army imposed a curfew on al-Burayj refugee camp after youths stoned troops there yesterday afternoon. Palestinians said a 13-year-old boy was hit in the left thigh by a live bullet during clashes, fracturing a bone. He is being treated at al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. The army had no reports of wounded.

The army confirmed the clash, saying that youths stoned soldiers from a mosque which had regularly served as a point from which traffic in the camp was stoned. It said 41 stonethrowers were arrested and that soldiers did not use weapons.

Palestinians said unrest in al-Burayj stemmed from an increase in disagreements between the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the mainstream PLO group, Fatah, which is prominent in the Unified National Leadership. Both organizations have recently attacked each other in leaflets in Gaza.

Reports said Hamas distributed a leaflet in Tulkarm yesterday, censuring Fatah for "stealing money designated for the support of the intifada" and for forming an alliance in South Lebanon with Amal, "an ally of the

Zionist enemy," which "killed hundreds of innocents in Ayn-al-Hulwah refugee camp."

The army told the family of Abd-al Hadi Hammad to evacuate their Bayt Hanun house within 48 hours, pending a demolition order. The 4 room building houses 10 people. Hammad was arrested on February 1 after being accused of participating in an armed clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol near the village.

Palestinians said youths stoned soldiers stationed at an observation post atop the Gaza Municipality building. Later, youths set fire to Israeli produce in Palestine Square. Two jeeps arrived but retreated without firing.

The Union of Palestinian Women's Committees in Gaza held a symposium to celebrate the 1,000th day of the intifada. Leading PLO supporter As'ad al-Saftawi and Dr. Ahmad al-Yazchi spoke, analyzing the achievements and goals of the uprising.

"At the beginning of the intifada, I did not imagine that it would last 1,000 days. Now it will continue until Palestinians get an independent state," Palestinians reported al-Saftawi as saying. The Gulf crisis and its solution would lead to "a great future for Palestinians," he added.

Two persons from the village of Jalqamus, near Janin, were shot and wounded in incidents on Monday and yesterday, local sources reported.

Amir Tahsin Tawfiq, 21, was reported shot in the abdomen on Monday, and Matiyah 'Abd-al-Latis, 19, was reported shot in the chest and taken to al-Maqasid Hospital in Jerusalem yesterday.

The IDF confirmed Monday's incident, but said it did not have information on yesterday's shooting.

The IDF yesterday demolished three houses in Silwad, near Ramallah, belonging to two brothers, Yasin Hamad and Mahr Hamad, and a cousin, 'Abd-al-Hakim Hamad. The three were described as organizers of "the Popular Army," affiliated with Fatah.

[Tel Aviv YED'IOT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 12 September in a page 7 report by Tzi Alus, Yotam Navin, and Hayim Broida adds that "last night at around 2000, a group of approximately 50 youths from the 'Isawiyah neighborhood of East Jerusalem began a riot. The youths, who wore masks, threw stones at a Border Police contingent at the entrance to the neighborhood. The police dispersed the rioters. The masked men threw rocks at passing cars on the Pat-Gilo road to Jerusalem. One car was hit and its windshield was damaged; there were no casualties."]

12 September

TA1309122790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Sep 90 p 10

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] An Israeli policeman, identified as Eli Gabar, 25, was shot in the neck yesterday while standing at Tapuah Junction, east of Ari'el in Samaria, at about 4:30 p.m. He was evacuated to Tel Hashomer Hospital where he was reported to be in fair condition.

Magen David Adom confirmed the shooting, but had no details on who had shot him or why. Police spokesman in Samaria and Jerusalem were unable to provide any details.

General Security Service [GSS] agents and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers arrested prominent Nabulus businessman Salah al-Masri in his sixth-floor apartment on Tuesday night. When his wife answered the door, the GSS agents reportedly said; "Tell your husband to pack, he is under arrest for a long time." The arrest of al-Masri, who is also on the board of governors of al-Najah University, bewildered people who knew him in Nabulus, where the al- Masris are one of the city's most respected families.

Politically, the al-Masris are considered closer to Jordan than the PLO, but are not politically active. Al-Masri's father Hikmat, was speaker of the Jordanian parliament in the 1950s.

"I was really surprised. He is a very peaceful man who did not interfere in politics at all," said fellow businessman Sa'id Kan'an, a prominent PLO supporter. The IDF said it would not confirm al-Masri's arrest, adding that several people were arrested in Nabulus yesterday and the day before.

In Tulkarm yesterday afternoon, soldiers burst into the municipality and arrested 20 people during a meeting of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Islamic fundamentalists and PLO supporters who were hammering out an agreement to end four days of factional fighting in the area.

Faysal al-Husayni, head of East Jerusalem's Arab Studies Center, who had arrived there to participate in the sulh [reconciliation ceremony] just as the arrests were made, said that "I found a lot of soldiers closing the doors. I saw many people coming down. Their identity cards were taken away and then they went away in military vehicles." He said he recognized three people as the "directors of the Janin and Tulkarm refugee camps and the Tulkarm municipal librarian."

Local sources reported that in the 'Askar refugee camp, near Nabulus, around 40 masked persons smashed down the front door of Asad Bourini, whom they accused of being an Israeli agent. Bourini fired five shots from a pistol, alerting soldiers who escorted him away. Military sources confirmed the incident.

In Nabulus, marchers with their faces covered by kaffiyehs and wearing khaki uniforms called on people to keep their eyes open for Israeli agents among them.

The army yesterday returned the body of an 18-year-old youth killed Sunday during a clash between soldiers and villagers in Bayta, near Nabulus.

13 September

TA1409121490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Sep 90 p 20

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Excerpts] A Palestinian youth was wounded yesterday by a home-made bomb as he was preparing it in a shop opposite Ramallah police station, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] said.

He was wounded in his face, hands and chest and taken to Ramallah Hospital in fair condition.

In Madama, south of Nabulus two people attacked a military bus with axes, smashed several of its windows and fled before soldiers were able to react, local sources said.

About 50 women marched through the Nabulus casbah chanting pro-Iraqi slogans and waving Palestinian and Iraqi flags, according to local sources.

The women also shouted a slogan against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak: "Mubarak is a spy who has sold the homeland for money."

Local sources said that the IDF sealed a house in the Nabulus casbah on Wednesday night belonging to two brothers suspected of belonging to a local strike force.

The IDF said yesterday that it had destroyed the houses of three Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members accused of terrorist activity, in Bayt 'Awla, in the Hebron district. They are suspected of having thrown a petrol bomb at an IDF ambulance, and at the homes of suspected informers.

Al-Haq, the Ramallah-based human rights office, said that one of its field workers, Iyad Haddad, 25, was arrested at 1.30 a.m. in his home. [passage omitted]

The Civil Administration has authorized the opening of a branch of the Cairo-Amman Bank in Tulkarm, Itim reported yesterday.

[A report by Mikhal Qedem on page 11 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 14 September adds that a 26-year-old man who headed a Fatah strike committee in Rafah and who was convicted of murdering one woman and attempting to murder another in Gaza on suspicion that they collaborated with Israel was sentenced yesterday by the military court in Gaza to "two life sentences and an additional 10-year sentence."

[The report continues: "Salam Tarbin from Khan Yunus was sentenced yesterday to five years in prison for planning to infiltrate from Egypt into Israel five armed Fatah terrorists who intended to attack a military base. On two occasions, Tarbin smuggled into Egypt seven residents of the Gaza Strip who had been wanted by the security forces."

[The report also states that "the two-day curfew on the al-Burayj refugee camp was lifted yesterday," and "Arab sources said one person had been slightly injured in riots in the al-Shati' refugee camp."]

UN Says 41,000 People Stranded in Nation

AU1409102490 Paris AFP in English 0930 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Geneva, Sept 14 (AFP)—Some 41,000 people displaced by the Gulf crisis are still stranded in Jordan, while another 16,900 others have already been evacuated in 61 flights, according to United Nations figures released Friday.

The office of the U.N. Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) said the Jordanian Government has asked for urgent cash contributions to cover the costs of water, food and transportation for the refugees. It said 34,000 people should be repatriated "in two to three weeks".

More than 85 million dollars so far have been contributed to help the refugees fleeing Iraq and occupied Kuwait, including 42.5 million used to pay repatriation costs and 42.6 million for relief aid, UNDRO said. These figures, however, did not cover the cost of additional services and goods volunteered in helping the refugees.

UNDRO said overall there had been a "generous" response to the different appeals, but said an additional 12 million dollars must still be found because of the "rapidly changing situation".

This new sum would go primarily towards providing temporary shelters, medical equipment, water and urgently needed sanitary facilities to avoid the spread of disease, UNDRO said.

Foreign Nationals Continue To Flee Iraq, Kuwait

JN1309074890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13-14 Sep 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—An official source at the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said Wednesday that the number of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait leaving from Jordanian airports Tuesday was 9,379 and the number of unscheduled flights for the same day was 40.

The official said the process of transporting evacuees from Jordan to their countries was continuing according to schedules presented by the airlines.

Meanwhile statistics from the Borders and Foreigners Affairs Department at the Public Security Department said the number of evacuees entering the Kingdom through the different border posts on Tuesday was 15,363 and the number of those leaving the country was 17,515 on the same day.

Reports from al-Ruwayshid border post showed that the number of evacuees entering the country since the crisis began on Aug. 2, when Iraq took over Kuwait, until Wednesday morning was 362,202.

The number of evacuees staying at al-Ruwayshid camps Tuesday dropped to 21,059 from about 70,000 on Saturday, according to statistics.

Netherlands Allocates $2 Million for Evacuees

JN1309153690 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 13 Sep (PETRA)—The Dutch Government has decided to extend 3 million guilders' worth of assistance, equivalent to $2 million, for the arrivals transiting Jordan from the Gulf.

Planning Ministry sources said the aid will be made available through international and regional agencies and will take the form of transport, medicine, foodstuffs, and other requirements.

It is to be recalled that many industrialzed nations have come forward with similar aid to the arrivals this past week.

EC Canned Beef 'Unfit for Human Consumption'

JN1309161190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] According to an authorized source at the [Jordanian] Health Ministry, some 300,000 cans of beef donated by European states for arrivals [from Iraq and Kuwait] have been deemed to be unfit for human consumption, having been found to contain such alien objects as bits of leather and animal hairs. The Amman daily SAWT AL-SHA'B, meanwhile, reported that the tainted cans exceed 500,000. A Health Ministry official said the cargo came from the EC.

The EC representative in Amman (Christian Valkovski) says the canned food comes from Europe-based international organizations that receive cash subsidies from the EC to purchase these articles. While the Health Ministry says the putrid goods originated from EC countries, the exporters are as yet unknown. A number of international organizations are airlifting foodstuffs to help thousands of arrivals from Iraq and Kuwait to Jordan who are in desperate need of food.

UK Minister, Hasan Discuss Refugee Problem

JN1309151390 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 13 Sep (PETRA)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received in the Royal Court this morning Mrs. Linda Chalker, British minister for overseas development, currently visiting Jordan.

During the meeting, his royal highness reviewed the problems facing Jordan as a result of the daily influx of massive numbers of arrivals from Kuwait and Iraq. He also reviewed the figures on the numbers of evacuees expected to arrive in the future.

He explained the demographic pressures and economic impact on the Kingdom as a result of the current Gulf crisis.

The British minister underscored the importance of coordination among the various local and international organizations so as to overcome the problem of evacuees. She paid

tribute to the efforts being made by Jordanian officials in dealing with this crisis Jordan is suffering.

The British ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Appeals for World Aid

JN1309155390 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 13 Sep (PETRA)—Mrs. Linda Chalker, British minister for overseas development, has appealed to all world states to provide aid to the evacuees arriving in Jordan from Iraq and to contribute toward the resolution of their humanitarian problem, which is also a world problem. She added that Jordan is shouldering a heavy burden in this regard. She noted that this is placing pressure on the Jordanian economy.

At a news conference held at the Plaza Hotel today, she said that her mission in Jordan is to urge world governments to provide relief aid to the evacuees in Jordan and to work to repatriate them. She added that 17,000 Sri Lankans will be repatriated via al-'Aqabah soon.

Mrs. Chalker said that the British Government will address an appeal to world airlines, urging them to use their planes to aid the repatriation of evacuees. She added that there is another problem facing Jordan—namely, the possible departure of 250,000 Asian nationals from Iraq via Jordan, a matter which constitutes a heavy burden on Jordan.

Mrs. Chalker went on to say that she held talks with the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who affirmed to her that Jordan is doing its best to secure the departure of evacuees as soon as possible. She concluded by saying that she will urge the British Government to intensify its aid to evacuees.

Paper Assails U.S., UK Policy of Alliances

JN1409103490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Sep 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Return to the Policy of Alliances"]

[Text] Mrs. Thatcher's quick, favorable reaction to the U.S. call for a security alliance in the Gulf came as no surprise, especially since the British prime minister has led a hysterical campaign against the Arabs and continued her endeavor to send more British troops to the Arabian Gulf region.

It looks clear now that both the United States and Britain are jointly and swiftly moving toward the creation of a new security and political reality in the Gulf with a view to perpetuating direct Western control over the sources of oil and covering up the ugliest colonialist looting of Arab wealth in the last decade of the 20th century.

The Americans and British, who reoccupied the Gulf at the sight of, and indeed with strong welcome from, its people, have openly begun to prepare for a long stay in the region. Under the pretext of establishing a new security order to protect the flow of cheap oil to the West, they are preparing to stay even after the Gulf crisis has been resolved.

These people, who are publicly talking about their colonialist designs for the region after the end of the crisis, have certainly been betrayed by their memories. Some decades ago, they themselves tried to create numerous alliances in the region, but they only reaped solid failure with the foiling of the Baghdad Pact, the Eisenhower plan, the Haig plan, and the other similar colonialist plans.

This elaborate U.S. and British talk about alliances and long stay in the region will hopefully open the Arab eyes to the grave dangers of seeking help and protection from the foreigner, especially with all this Western crowing about protecting the weak regimes in the Gulf, and all this disdain of the Arab mentality, indeed of the Arab man, who is being portrayed as roaming the desert with no ambition, dream, or dignity.

As we stress the need for an Arab awakening before it is too late, and while we call for being alert to the buildup in the Gulf and to the colonialist plans against the Gulf people, we are highly confident that the Arabs and Muslims will ultimately be able to bring such alliances down, and protect and manage oil in a manner that safeguards the rights of all parties.

Foreign Minister Meets With Malaysian Official

JN1309164490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim today received Mr. (?Zayn al-'Abidin Zayn), assistant under secretary at the Malaysian Foreign Ministry. The Malaysian envoy gave him a letter from his country's foreign minister lauding His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to find a peaceful way out of the Gulf crisis, and thanking the Jordanian Government for the facilities and care provided for Malaysians transiting Jordan en route home.

Al-Qasim asked him to communicate to the people and government of sisterly Malaysia the appreciation and gratitude felt by Jordan for Malaysia's contribution to easing the strain on Jordan, which is coping with the influx of arrivals from the Gulf on their way home.

Al-Qasim Receives Shevardnadze Letter on Summit

JN1309151890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1441 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, 13 Sep (PETRA)—Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim has received a letter from USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze explaining the outcome of the Helsinki Soviet-US summit. The letter was delivered by the Soviet ambassador in Amman, who emphasized his country's support for His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to promote a resolution of the Gulf crisis.

He also stressed the Soviet Union's emphasis on a peaceful way out.

The Soviet ambassador stressed that the Arabs have a special and key role to play in the solution being sought, and the USSR hopes that Arab efforts will be intensified and expanded toward that end.

Paper Praises Iranian Call for Jihad

JN1409101690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
14 Sep 90 p 1

[Editorial: "What Does Tehran's Call for Jihad Mean?"]

[Text] Before the eyes and ears of the entire world, Iran's spiritual guide has declared jihad against American hegemony over the Gulf and presence in the holy lands, and against any American military order in the region. This underlines the fact that this is not only an Iraqi or pan-Arab position, but the position of all Muslims and Arabs. Moreover, objective Westerners are now certain that the aggressive U.S. scheme in its entirety is the real threat to the region and other parts of the world.

Thus, the U.S. adventurists can no longer claim that Iraq alone is responsible for resistance attacks on U.S. interests and targets should such attacks take place. The whole world now knows that Islamic jihad has been declared, and that millions of Muslims on earth are now determined to confront American hegemony, uproot the U.S. presence in the sacred lands, and prevent the establishment of a U.S. military order in the region. When the U.S. adventurists declared that Baghdad would be responsible for any attacks against U.S. interests and targets in the region, they were looking for an excuse to harass Iraq. But, this excuse no longer exists.

Tehran chose to be the first to remove this excuse, and it chose to be in the lead. Through its spiritual guide, it declared that it was leading the mujahidin against U.S. arrogance to foil the aggressive U.S. scheme in it entirety. By calling for jihad, Tehran created real panic in Washington. It is worthy of note that U.S. officials reacted to this call with extreme caution, and rushed to assert that Iran gave no indication suggesting that it was not observing the sanctions against Iraq. This soft note sounded like an American petition to Tehran to distance itself from the Arabs and refrain from taking part in confronting the aggressive U.S. scheme. This petition, however, will certainly fail to change Iran's daring position.

Iran's call for jihad is a great initiative to rebuild cohesion between the Arab and Muslim wings. This would change the balance of power in the region and motivate the forces drawn in by the American adventurists to reconsider their calculations in accordance with the developments associated with the call for jihad, and the developments that will certainly emerge from the cohesion between the Arab and Islamic wings in the region.

As we appreciate Iran's civilized initiative, we strongly call for a quick Arab response to embody Arab-Islamic cohesion. Our region will then be able to solve its problems by itself and remain remote from the schemes of the NATO adventurists.

Columnist Criticizes Conflicting Ads on Crisis

JN1409073890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
14 Sep 90 p 2

[From "Petition" column by Muhammad Dawudiyah: "Kramer Versus Kramer"]

[Text] When someone declares his absolute support for some party involved in the Gulf crisis, we say it is his own business. What is not his business, however, is to claim that he is the official and sole spokesman for the tribe, city, or governorate. Such behavior will elicit reaction from those whom this person has claimed to represent and speak for. We have seen advertisements and counter advertisements, and we fear that this media confrontation may escalate to a more serious level, causing contradictions among brothers because of personal interests, financial links, and small gains.

A single position of pride is worth more than all the money in the world. And those who made personal gains in the past and found in the current crisis a source for new gains must fear God and show concern about their homeland, people, and kinfolk. Stop the farce of representing others, especially if you know that those others will not remain silent on this slander.

Memos Say Press Free From Government Control

JN1309124590 Amman THE STAR in English
13-19 Sep 90 p 2

[From "On the Record" column by Ahmad Shakir]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry sent some memoranda to a number of embassies in the country informing them that the articles published in the Jordanian press does not necessarily reflect the stand of the government.

The memoranda pointed out that the press in Jordan is free and publishes what it deems suitable without any government interference.

Saudi Embassy Stresses Support for Palestinians

JN1309094490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
13 Sep 90 p 13

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—The Saudi Embassy in Amman has issued a statement in which it stressed that the

Saudi stance on the Palestine question has not changed since the beginning of the events in the Arabian Gulf.

The statement stressed support and backing for the Palestinian people out of Saudi Arabia's belief in the justness of their cause and its Arab and Islamic duty until they achieve victory, return to their homeland, and establish their independent state.

The Saudi statement pointed out that the Palestinians who live among us, and enjoy every care and protection, understand this reality more that anybody else.

'Economic Quantities' of Oil Reported in 'Ajlun

JN1309104790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—Energy Ministry sources have confirmed that reports submitted by experts prospecting for oil in the 'Ajlun area show that there is as much as an 85 percent probability that oil is present in the region.

The reports added that signs indicate that oil is present in economic quantities. However, the current circumstances in the region have temporarily halted the prospecting operations.

Government Responds to Gen. 'Awn's Proposals

NC1309144390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Informed sources say that General 'Awn, in negotiations that started on 24 August, proposed suspending the signing of the decree on constitutional reforms and the ongoing preparations for a military operation; initiating a speedy political dialogue to reach an agreement whereby he can participate in the government, specifically to take over the defense portfolio; and obtaining guarantees for meeting Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, providing that the negotiations remain secret until an agreement is reached.

The government reply was as follows:

—Accepting the delay in signing the reform decree until 18 September, within the one-month duration given to the president of the Republic to promulgate or reject laws;

—Rejecting the need to suspend military preparations, but accepting the need for a political dialogue, rendering the reasons for a military operation invalid;

—Rejecting the logic of preconditions and accepting Gen. 'Awn's participation in the government after he agrees to the al-Ta'if accord, recognizes the legitimate government, and leaves B'abda [Palace] and al-Yarzah [Defense Ministry],

—Rejecting the appointment of Gen. 'Awn as defense minister and working out an agreement on a person for this post that does not pose a challenge to anyone;

—Postponing the issue of a meeting between President al-Asad and 'Awn until these conditions are met.

Meanwhile, sources say that 'Awn agreed to the latest proposals and asked about regional and international guarantees. He noted that what concerns him is a moral consolation commensurate with his political status. He also stressed that ultimately there should be an understanding with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

President Asks King Fahd for Financial Aid

NC1309173290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has appealed to King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz to help Lebanon overcome its suffering. Al-Hirawi asked the king to head an Arab campaign whose primary objective is to extend immediate financial aid to avert the hunger and poverty threatening Lebanese society.

The president of the Republic stated this in a message addressed to the monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia, Others To Give 'Immediate Aid'

NC1309060090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and certain Arab countries have decided to give immediate aid to Lebanon. The Prime Minister's Office has issued the following statement:

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak informed President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss that he contacted King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, concerning Lebanon's need for immediate aid in its present crisis. The custodian of the two holy mosques emphasized that Saudi Arabia and fraternal Arab states are ready to give immediate aid to Lebanon. The Saudi monarch said Lebanon will receive the aid soon.

Al-Musawi on Chances for U.S. Hostages' Release

NC1409111090 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 13 Sep 90 p 5

[Excerpts] The British ambassador to Beirut said Wednesday that he is reasonably optimistic that the ordeal of the three British hostages held in Lebanon will end soon.

Ambassador David Tathan made these remarks after an hour-long meeting with 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. The meeting, held at Fadlallah's office, is the first held in two years between Fadlallah and a senior British diplomat. In a statement to VISNEWS after the session, Ambassador Tathan said: I did not convey any special message from any government to Shaykh Fadlallah, but I raised with him, as I do with all Lebanese leaders I meet, the issue of the British hostages—actually, of all the hostages held in Lebanon.

The ambassador added that the ordeal of our hostages is a source of concern to the British Government. He said: I was asked to convey this concern to Shaykh Fadlallah and to ask him, as I ask all Lebanese leaders, to do his utmost to effect the release of the hostages. He declined to reveal Fadlallah's reply.

Asked about recent reports that all British hostages might be released this month, Ambassador Tathan said: I have no specific information on this issue, but I am reasonably optimistic. I have no solid grounds for this optimism, except that the general atmosphere seems to be improving. [passage omitted]

Hizballah official Husayn al-Musawi has told REUTERS that prospects for the release of the British hostages are promising. He added that as long as there are positive moves on the part of the Europeans, good news could be expected concerning the hostages.

Asked about the date for the release of the hostages, he said: Soon, God willing.

He added, however, that the chances for the release of the six U.S. hostages are slim because of Washington's wrong policies toward Muslims.

Al-Musawi said the expulsion of writer Salman Rushdie from Britain is no longer a precondition for better relations between Iran and Britain.

Reports of Operation Against B'abda Denied

NC1409060290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] There have been reports to the effect that a lightning military operation will soon be carried out to regain B'abda and the Defense Ministry building in al-Yarzah. Other reports note military preparations to implement the legitimate authorities' decision.

Authoritative military sources have responded, however, to these reports by stressing that they are blatant attempts to undermine the Army's task, as delineated in accordance with the decisions of the government and the Army Command. The decisions stress the need for adopting measures to impose a blockade on General 'Awn, measures limited to preventing the arrival of food and other commodities to areas under his control.

The sources emphasized that such reports are baseless. The decisions only deal with the possible transfer of units from Army brigades to the combat lines facing 'Awn-controlled areas. This transfer is part of the legitimate authorities' efforts to pressure 'Awn and deprive him of political support and food, according to the sources.

Government sources, meanwhile, have corroborated the military sources' statement and said that a decision to end the rebellion had been made in principle. The tools to implement this option, however, depend on international and regional resources which have not yet been made available, the government sources concluded.

Hizballah Statement on Assistance to Villages

NC1409112690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] A Hizballah information source has made the following statement:

While the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Iqlim al-Tuffah people's committee continue their benevolent efforts to deal with the human suffering resulting from the continued siege of the villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah and the cutoff of the water supply to these villages and some villages in al-Zahrani and al-Nabatiyah, Amal's gunmen, who are besieging the inhabitants and the Islamic resistance, continue to obstruct these efforts and attempt to frustrate them by dictating impossible conditions. Amal officials state they will permit the Red Cross to bring medicines, milk for children, and food supplies to the besieged inhabitants in Iqlim al-Tuffah, if the Red Cross provides them with a list of all inhabitants of the villages and if the families of the Hizballah strugglers are deprived of the food supplies earmarked for the rest of the besieged families.

Amal officials also refuse to pledge to keep open the water pipeline in 'Arab Salim to ensure water goes to the 21 besieged villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

The source added: While presenting these facts to our oppressed people, we emphasize the need for these humanitarian issues to be resolved promptly without blackmailing the besieged children, wounded, and people by imposing immoral, illegitimate, and inhuman conditions. We again appeal to the honest members of our people, humanitarian organizations, influential political and religious figures to exert pressure so that the food and medical blockade imposed on the people of Iqlim al-Tuffah may be lifted and its water supply ensured.

We again express our complete readiness to repair the damage caused to the Nab' al-Safi water pipeline as a result of the indiscriminate and destructive shelling of the Islamic resistance positions in the town of Jarju'.

We call on the Red Cross and the people's committee to continue their efforts to resolve the problem of supplying water to all villages; bring medicines, milk for children, and food to the besieged people in Iqlim al-Tuffah; and evacuate the wounded. We also call on the other party to abandon its impossible conditions, lift the siege, and separate humanitarian issues from military matters. The roads in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area must be reopened to the people, and supplies must reach them. Resorting to blackmail in these matters is a sinister crime according to shari'a, ethics, and the law.

Army Said To Deploy Brigades on Front Lines

NC1409060790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Informed sources in the western area have confirmed that the Army Command yesterday evening began adopting measures to deploy Army units on the confrontation lines over the next few hours. The forces will be deployed as follows:

The 7th Brigade will be deployed on the Duhur al-Shuwayr front; the 1st Brigade on the Monte Verde confrontation line; the 2d Brigade on the Bhamdun-Damascus road confrontation line; the 11th Brigade in 'Alayh and Suq al-Gharb; the 12th Brigade in Kafr Shima, al-Shuwayfat, and al-Ma'rufiyah; and the 6th Brigade in Beirut.

The sources said that deployment will be completed in 10 days during which the results of the Syrian-U.S. contacts will have become clear.

'Terrorist' Caught by IDF in Security Zone

TA1309162790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] One terrorist was caught today by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit during a clash with a terrorist gang in the security zone in south Lebanon. Our troops did not sustain any casualties.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that an IDF unit on an operational mission near the village of Kawkaba in the eastern sector was strafed with light weapons fire. The unit returned the fire, and the terrorist was captured in the ensuing chase. The Israeli army unit also seized RPG shells and light weapons ammunition.

Resistance Shells Israeli, 'Agent' Positions

NC1309143290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] According to the latest report on the progress of the heroic battles the National and Islamic Resistance are waging against the Israeli occupation forces and their agents, the resistance shelled a position held by the occupation forces in Hasbayya and another in Marj 'Uyun with 10 Katyusha rockets. The Israeli enemy and its agents sustained more than 10 dead and wounded during the confrontation between the resistance and the enemy's forces.

Islamic Resistance, Amal Activities Reported

NC1409100090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Excerpts] According to security reports from western al-Biqa' and the south, tension is prevailing in these areas, and the Islamic resistance positions are in a state of full alert fearing a new Israeli advance. An Israeli force advanced toward the liberated areas in western al-Biqa' yesterday morning under the cover fire of Zionist gunships and artillery. The area around the al-Litani River and the hills surrounding the villages of Qilya and Zillaya were shelled by the Zionist forces in Marj 'Uyun. [passage omitted]

An Internal Security Forces source said that there was a 10-hour fight between a unit of the Israeli occupation army and the Islamic and national resistance forces yesterday. The source said that the resistance fighters dealt harsh blows to the Israeli unit, forcing it to withdraw to the so-called security zone. [passage omitted]

An Islamic resistance source stated that an explosive device went off under a Zionist tank on the Burghuz-al-Ahmadiyah road at 0605 yesterday. Soon afterward, an Israeli force made up of four tanks and 50 soldiers advanced and took up positions on al-Na'imah hills; it began shelling the area around the al-Litani River, Wadi al-Mathanah, and the areas around Jisr al-Dallafah, and (al-Shaba) hill. Enemy helicopters then combed the area around Jisr al-Dallafah and the al-Na'imah hills. Meanwhile, an enemy infantry force advanced and took up position on the slopes of the al-Na'imah hills. The Islamic resistance's artillery then began to shell the enemy forces in al-Ahmadiyah, the al-Na'imah hills, and the area around Burghuz.

The source said that the Islamic resistance's shelling set fire to an enemy vehicle and hit the enemy's assembled forces, forcing them to withdraw south of al-Ahmadiyah. These forces then began to shell the area around Yuhmur and the Maydun hills, while their antiaircraft fire was confronting the Zionist enemy aircraft. [passage omitted]

According to information received from the south, a group of Birri's Amal cliques infiltrated the al-Shir area on the outskirts of the town of Jarju' at 1015 yesterday. This group was ambushed by Islamic resistance fighters and completely annihilated. Soon afterward, Amal positions in 'Arab Salim used 82-mm guns to violently shell Jarju'.

A Hizballah information source made the following statement: In its continued attempts to undermine efforts to end the existing problem and contrary to its propaganda allegations of adhering to the cease-fire, the Amal Movement used its 120-mm and 106-mm guns positioned in Kafr Hatta to shell the town of Kafr Milki in a violent and concentrated manner at 0925 yesterday. A whole family was wounded: Brother 'Abd-al-Misri, 60, was wounded in the leg; sister Khadijah Sawwan, 50, needs immediate treatment and her hand has to be amputated; and daughter Shaykhah al-Misri, 20, was wounded in the back. At 1015, Amal attempted to infiltrate the town of (Jarju' al-Ku') but the Islamic resistance fighters' forward positions detected the attempt and confronted the attackers. In the ensuing clashes, some members of the group were killed or wounded. Soon afterward, Amal used 130-mm and 82-mm guns positioned in Habbush to shell Jarju', causing a huge fire. [passage omitted]

Fierce Fighting Reported in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC1309150790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] The security situation on the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines, particularly the Jarju'-'Arab Salim axis, is still very tense following fierce clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen this morning. The combatants used heavy artillery and rocket launchers in these clashes.

A Hizballah information source said that an Amal group tried to infiltrate the outskirts of Jarju', but was ambushed by Hizballah members, who succeeded in annihilating the infiltrators.

Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, expressed his hopes that those seeking to resolve the dispute between the Amal Movement and Hizballah will succeed in nipping the sedition in Iqlim al-Tuffah in the bud. He called on Syrian and Iranian leaders to

pressure both parties to resolve the problem of Army deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah, adding that they are capable of doing this.

Highway Built in Security Zone Inaugurated

TA1309142290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] A highway was inaugurated this morning between Marj 'Uyun and the Druze township of Hasbayya in the security zone in south Lebanon. The road is 13 km long. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the road was financed jointly by the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Civil Administration and residents of south Lebanon, who donated money for that purpose.

American University Branch Students Stage Sit-In

NC1309120690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Students at the American University's Juniyah branch began a sit-in at the university campus as of 1200 today to denounce the decision to close the branch in the eastern area and annex it to the mother university in West Beirut.

A large number of students from neighboring schools and universities are participating in the sit-in.

Meanwhile, the Holy Spirit University in al-Kaslik has announced that it will suspend studies in a symbolic strike between 1200 and 1300 in solidarity with the American University students.

The Sayyidat al-Luwayzah University students have declared their support for and solidarity with the American University branch students' sit-in and position.

The teachers in the Lebanese Forces have declared their absolute support for the contents of the letter Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' wrote [to the president of the American University]. The teachers warned the American University president of the consequences of pursuing his biased policy that affects and endangers the future of society's educated segment. They also called for participation in and support for the sit-in.

Baker Arrives in Damascus; Met by Al-Shar'

JN1309203090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the head of the America Deparment and of Protocols at the Foreign Ministry, as well as the U.S. ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

Holds Talks With Al-Asad

JN1409124490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at 1015 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Eduard Djerejian.

Talks revolved around the situation in the Gulf, bilateral matters, and the situation and peace process in the region. The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and were candid and clear.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN1409143790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Damascus this afternoon. Seeing him off were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Mr. Baker made a statement to journalists at Damascus International Airport in which he said that his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, which lasted four-and-a-half hours, dealt with the Gulf crisis and ways of cooperating to implement the UN resolutions. Talks also dealt with the sanctions issued by the United Nations and means of implementing these sanctions.

Mr. al-Shar' expressed his satisfaction with Mr. Baker's visit and with the results of their talks. He described them as positive and constructive. He said: We discussed bilateral relations and we hope that these relations will improve to serve the interests of the two countries and peace and security in the region.

'Sources' Cited on Dispatch of Armored Brigade

JN1309132090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Western diplomatic sources in Damascus report that Syria has consented to the dispatch of an armored brigade to Saudi Arabia to beef up the the multinational military force there. According to the same sources, Damascus is thus responding to a Saudi request for a 10,000-strong armored brigade and 300 tanks. They would be joining around 4,000 Syrian soldiers already deployed in Saudi Arabia.

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Italy

WA1409125190

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Italy, including reports on his talks with Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, please see the Italy section of the 13 September West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Foreign Minister Returns From Italy Visit

JN1409110690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening following an official visit to Italy during which he met with Italian President Francesco Cossiga, Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, Foreign Affairs Minister Gianni De Michelis, and Italian Socialist Party Secretary General Bettino Craxi.

During the visit, the talks focused on Syrian-Italian ties and ways to develop them. The talks also broached Syrian relations with EC member states, Arab-European dialogue, and the Gulf crisis caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

*Iranian Request to Syria Considered Startling

90P4013 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 20 Aug 90 p 7

[Text] The visit of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Damascus last week and his talks with a number of Syrian officials were aimed at persuading Syria to support Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the positions taken by Iraq following these fast-breaking developments. The Iranian request caused great astonishment in Arab circles, especially since it preceded the Iraqi president's announcement of his initiative, which included the return to force of the Algiers Agreement, which was signed in 1975. The astonishment in Arab circles was intensified by the statements made by the Iranian president, in which he expressed his country's readiness to play the role of "policeman of the Gulf" in a manner similar to that of the late shah.

Afghanistan

AFP Views Likely Effects of Political Reforms

BK1409023090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0151 GMT 14 Sep 90

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, Sept 14 (AFP)—A new law relaxing the rules on forming political parties could unnerve segments of the Kabul regime, for which democratic competition remains a novelty despite efforts to shed a pro-communist image. But President Najibullah's latest step towards political pluralism might quieten Afghan resistance accusations that his pledge to end one-party rule is purely cosmetic and deserves outright rejection, analysts here said.

Local political forces welcomed a new constitutional amendment that allows any group of 300 people to form a political party and contest elections. "The law gives facilities to groups to begin a legal political struggle and end their armed battle," a government spokesman said. "This way, they can have their own coalition government and enter the parliament."

He was referring to preconditions that call on political parties to obey the law, base themselves in Kabul, reject armed conflict, join the electoral process, uphold Islamic tradition and support national integrity. The amendment promises new parties political legitimacy on condition that they register with the Supreme Court with proof they do not represent a single ethnic or racial group, and pledge to uphold national values.

But some observers predict the offer will disturb sections of the ruling party, which has tolerated no challenge since it came to power in 1978. One senior activist of the workers' revolutionary party said new parties were likely to quickly become pawns of the party's ruling faction.

Some leading party members could be expected to reject the move, "and ultimately there will be massive subversion of the hordes of parties that are going to mushroom," he said. "They have ruled so long that despite the change in the name and colour of their party, they will not agree to coexist and compete with new parties unless the groups join ranks with the regime," a member of the Peasants' Justice Party added.

President Najibullah has changed the name of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) to Watan (homeland) and observers see the removal of tight restrictions on new parties as part of the promised political liberalisation. Diplomats here said many party members were reluctant to exchange their PDPA cards for membership in Watan, which discards communist dogma in favour of a centrist approach.

"It is another cosmetic strategy of the government and even if they are sincere, the old guard (of the PDPA) will not allow any sort of liberty to the new entrants in our political field," a former member of the Afghan Toilers' Party said. He said his small leftist party and six others had only been tolerated after the PDPA had ensured that they would toe the party line.

The Kabul government, which has overcome resistance offensives and a coup attempt in March after the 1989 withdrawal of Soviet troops, says it wants a peaceful political settlement with the resistance. Mr. Najibullah, 43, has called for a cease-fire, talks with all opposiiton groups and a U.N.-supervised election after the repatriation of some five million refugees from Pakistan and Iran. His proposals have found little response from the resistance.

But while local political groups continued to have misgivings about the party that ruled throughout a decade of Soviet occupation, diplomats here said the amendment further legitimised Mr. Najibullah's claim to sincerity in his efforts to achieve a peaceful solution and set up a multi-party system.

"The laws on political parties will end the arguments put forward by the mujahidin that Mr. Najibullah is not sincere in his approach to a peaceful settlement," one diplomat said. "The laws are good because they reflect the aspirations of parties," said a spokesman for the royalist National Salvation Society, which has so far rejected all overtures to take part in Kabul politics. "Now they can have more freedom." Mujahidin groups have rejected outright all Kabul's peace proposals as superficial and demanded Mr. Najibullah's ouster as a pre-requisite for talks.

Saudi Wahabis Attack; Forces Strengthen Defense

LD1109185390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] An authorized armed forces source reports that Saudi Wahabis yesterday and today launched sporadic attacks on a number of positions of units and (?populated areas) in Gardeyz and Khowst cities, wounding one civilian. In retaliation for these criminal actions of the enemies of peace and tranquillity of our people, their positions were subjected to heavy weapon strikes by the units, destroying several trenches and causing casualties.

According to the source, units of the armed forces in Nangarhar Province are engaged in equipping and strengthening their defense positions. Yesterday and today parts of the units' frontline were subjected to heavy weapons fire, which met with crushing retaliatory strikes. One enemy vehicle carrying weapons and ammunition, one communication unit, six mortars, and one rocket-launcher were destroyed.

According to another report, units and companies of the armed forces in Ghazni Province have defended their positions yesterday and today and launched attacks against Saudi Wahabis, which destroyed a number of their trenches. The units are carrying out their combat tasks with high morale.

The source adds that units and companies in Badghis Province yesterday and today launched shattering blows at the enemies of peace and tranquillity of our people who attempted to enter a number of villages. They inflicted heavy losses on them and cleansed the [words indistinct]. According to the source, maintenance supplies and ammunition have arrived in Badghis Province by supply convoy.

Another report states that Saudi Wahabi mercenaries have launched heavy weapon attacks on parts of the frontline security belt. In retaliation the resistance areas of the warmongers [words indistinct] with heavy weapons, causing loss of life. The situation in other parts of the country is generally peaceful.

Ministry of State Security Conducts Operations

LD1209190390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] In order to prevent terrorist and subversive actions by extremists, the organs of the Ministry of State Security have recently carried out a mopping-up operation in Shakardara district [in Kabul province]. Three mortars and some ammunition were seized during this operation.

Seven Strella-2 type surface-to-air missiles and one set of BM-12 were recently handed over to the organs of the Ministry of State Security in Herat aned Ghowr provinces by two opposition armed groups who have given up fratricidal war and come over to the side of the policy of national reconciliation.

The infantry forces of the Ministry of State Security carried out mopping-up operations today and yesterday around the Paghman district. According to BAKHTAR's military section, 18 U.S.-made Sakr-30 and Sakr-20 surface-to-surface missiles, 26 (Mozael)-type surface-to-surface missiles, 50 rocket-launcher and recoilless gun shells, and five antipersonnel mines were seized during this operation.

India

Indian Airlines Hijacking Attempted

BK1309125090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1234 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] An attempt to hijack an Indian Airlines Boeing 737 was made today after it took off from Coimbatore. The plane with more than 90 passengers was on its way to Madras via Bangalore. Ten minutes after it left the Coimbatore Airport this morning, the hijacker forced into the cockpit and demanded the plane to be diverted to Colombo. However, the plane landed safely at Bangalore and the hijacker was immediately whisked away by security personnel for interrogation. The aircraft commander later said that the hijacker, said to be an engineering student, appeared mentally upset.

Iraqi Jet To Evacuate Nationals From Kuwait

BK1309161190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] India has for the first time chartered a jumbo jet of the Iraqi Airways to evacuate its sick and disabled men, pregnant women, and children from Kuwait. The plane was to carry 440 such Indians today from Kuwait to Amman and the Indian Embassy in Jordan has been requested to send them to Bombay on a priority basis. If this plan succeeds, India will charter two more planes from Iraqi Airways. The Indian ambassador in Baghdad, Mr. Kamal Bakshi, told our Gulf correspondent Avinash Goel that there are 1,200 people in Kuwait who are sick and need to be repatriated to India immediately. So far, about 45,000 Indians have left Kuwait and Iraq.

The ambassador said about 120,000 more Indians have registered to leave Kuwait. Nine hundred and fifty Indian nationals left Baghdad today for Jordan in a convoy of buses. The Indian Embassy has chalked out a plan to evacuate Indians by buses from Saturday [15 September] on a regular basis.

The Shipping Corporation of India vessel—Tipu Sultan—with 539 Indian nationals including 50 women and 24 children arrived at Bombay port this morning from Dubayy.

The surface transport minister, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, has said that the backlog of stranded Indians in camps in Amman will be cleared in about 10 days. Twelve flights have been put into service to airlift about 3,500 people daily. Mr. Unnikrishnan, who returned from a five-day tour of Jordan and other Gulf countries, told newsmen in New Delhi today that Jordan has accepted New Delhi's request to set up an exclusive camp for Indian refugees. He said the camp being set up about 50 km from Amman will accommodate about 15,000 refugees and will be operational this week. Replying to a question, Mr. Unnikrishnan said that though the exodus of Indian nationals toward Jordan started around the 26th of last month, the magnitude of the problem became clear only during the first week of this month.

Ship Docks in Bombay With 539 Nationals From Gulf

BK1309103890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] The Indian ship—Tipu Sultan—arrived in Bombay this morning with 539 passengers, including 49 women and 27 children, from Dubayy. The central and western railways have set up a stall at the docks to provide free tickets to the passengers for travel to any part of the country.

Singh Discusses Elections With Punjab Officials

BK1309161390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, today held a meeting with the Punjab governor, the state chief secretary,

and the director general of police in New Delhi and considered the possibility of holding elections in the state. The members of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, including the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, were present. The Union Cabinet secretary and the home secretary also attended the meeting.

All India Radio's correspondent says that the prime minister has been having consultations with leaders of various political parties on the issue for the past several days and the Union Cabinet considered it yesterday. Our correspondent understands that the general view of the Cabinet meeting was that the state must get out of president's rule and the elections should be held. The Cabinet decided that the prime minister should consult the supporting parties before a final decision is taken in the matter. The Congress-I did not attend the meeting called by the government on Punjab.

BJP Criticizes Government Policy on Provinces

BK1409094890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L. K. Advani, has urged the government to reconsider its policy on Kashmir and Punjab to make it tough enough in dealing with the subversive elements in these states. Mr. Advani was inaugurating the three-day all India reorientation conclave of the BJP legislators in Bhopal today. Charging the government with inept handling of the situation in these states, Mr. Advani said that initial high hopes raised by earlier strong actions have now started receding because of center's soft attitude following pressure from certain quarters.

Mr. Advani said that the parties supporting the National Front government at the center should not be taken for granted even though they have been supporting it despite wide differences on several issues. Mr. Advani criticized the government for ignoring the supporting parties over major issues and said that there would [as heard] be a check on it. He said that the last nine months have shown that the threat to the existence of the government is not from the supporting parties but from within the party itself which has been simmering with frequent internal squabbles. The three-day training conclave is being attended by over 600 BJP MLA's [members of Legislative Assembly] and more than 100 MP's [members of parliament] from all over the country. It will discuss the present political scenario in the country besides finalizing a code of conduct for the BJP legislators.

One Policeman Among Five Killed in Punjab

BK1309104090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] In Punjab, one terrorist and one policeman are among the five persons killed in separate incidents since last night. According to official spokesman, terrorists gunned down four persons, including a member of a rival gang, in separate incidents in Amritsar District. In another incident in the district, an assistant subinspector of police was killed and 11 policemen, including an SHO [Station House Officer], were injured in a land mine blast in the Ajnala area. In Gurdaspur District, one terrorist was injured in an encounter with the security forces near Kadian area. However, the injured terrorist managed to escape along with his accomplices.

Iran

Habibi Reviews Crisis Resolution With EC Envoy

LD1309170890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] In a meeting with Mr. Habibi, the first vice-president, Mr. Claudio Lenoci, envoy of the European Economic Community [EC] and the deputy foreign minister of Italy who is visiting Tehran referred to the existence of suitable conditions for the establishment of cooperation between EC members and Iran and said: The expansion of bilateral ties will be made possible by those efforts which have been made so far. According to the Central News Unit, he also referred to the Persian Gulf crisis and said: The presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf is linked with the current crisis—when problems in the region recede, there will be no reason for the continued presence of the forces.

According to the report, Mr. Habibi, for his part, referred to relations between Iran and the European Common Market and said: The improvement and expansion of relations will take place by stressing mutual interests. He said: Iran's determination that [UN] Resolution 598 should be implemented is one of the signs of the Islamic Republic of Iran's adherence to cooperation with the United Nations. Iran condemned the invasion of Kuwait before the other countries in the region, and it is also opposed to the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region. He added: The Persian Gulf crisis must be resolved through the cooperation of the countries of the region, and Iran condemns any change in the political geography of the region.

Ansari Urges Support for Kashmir Muslims

LD1309201290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Kashmiri Muslims living in Iran held a memorial service for the combatant martyrs of Kashmir in Qom's grand mosque this evening. They also issued a statement condemning the brutal killing of Kashmiri Muslims by Indian forces and calling for the establishment of an Islamic government in the Jammu and Kashmir. According to the Central News Unit, in the ceremony, which was also attended by a number of Muslims from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, [Saudi] Arabia, and Kuwait, after special mourning ceremonies, first a Muslim Kashmiri Mojkahed delivered a speech in which he stressed that the establishment of a government of Islamic justice in the Kashmir region is the wish of the

combatant Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir, and praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance over the justice-seeking battles of the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir. Then, Mr. Ansari, the guardian of the blessed shrine of his eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, praised the lofty position of martyrs of Islam and called for the all-sided support of the Muslims of the world for the combatant Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir.

Measures Taken To Speed Port Freight Handling

LD1209175290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] In order to speed up the unloading of goods in the country's ports, from now on the ships whose cargo are transported there will be allowed to berth out of turn and their goods will be unloaded within a maximum of three days. The executive director of the Ports and Shipping Organizations announced this at a press conference today. He described the programs of the organization for increasing the capability of the transportation of goods and making the best use of port facilities.

Referring to the fact that necessary means have been provided for the participation of the private sector of the work of the loading and unloading of goods in the country's ports, he said: In order to speed up the unloading of ships, suitable plots of land near the ports for the construction of storage facilities, cold stores, and silos will be placed at the disposal of the banking system and applicants from the private sector, so that they can construct the necessary installations near the ports.

Regarding the reconstruction of the city of Khorramshahr, the executive director of the Ports and Shipping Organisation said: In view of recent developments in Iran-Iraq relations, the reconstruction of Khorramshahr has been speeded up. It is predicted that the reconstruction of this important port, with a capacity of loading and unloading 1 million tonnes per year, will be completed within a year.

Regarding the volume of imports and exports through the ports of the country during the first five months of the current year [since 21 March], he said: The volume of the imports of goods through the ports of the country during the first five months of the current year shows an increase of 49 percent and the volume of exports shows an increase of 102 percent compared with the same period last year.

According to the same report, the Executive director of the Shipping Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran, also took part in this interview, referred to the new shipping lines of the Islamic Republic of Iran and added that at the moment, 99 ships with a capacity of 2,352,000 tonnes of goods carry 50 percent of the country's goods.

Petroleum Minister Discusses Oil Production

NC1409064790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] During a visit to Semnan Province, Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh spoke to correspondents about the country's crude oil production and exports and stated: Under the current conditions we are exporting oil within the framework of our quota. He described the market situation as good. Commenting on purchases of our country's oil: Demands are extremely high and prices are good too. He said that the latest price of Iranian oil on international markets is $28 [per barrel].

Mr. Aqazadeh added: Our country is currently the safest area for oil sales and deliveries and under the current conditions we hope to have a monthly income increase of between $700-$800 million in the country's current programs.

He stated: The situation of the country is extremely good as far as foreign exchange and rial incomes are concerned and the outlook for the second six-month period [beginning 23 September 1990] is very good. With the increase in oil income and production in the country, we hope that inflation in the country will be harnessed.

The petroleum minister spoke about the country's petrochemical projects and said: More than 10,000 oil industry employees are reconstructing the Bandar-e Imam [Khomeyni] petrochemical project, and during the next two months, the first phase of the project which will bring $100 million foreign exchange income into the country annually will become operational thanks to the efforts of Iranian experts.

Mr. Aqazadeh also expressed the hope that once the large Arak petrochemical project and other similar projects throughout the country become operational by 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992], the country's foreign exchange income from this source will reach the $3-billion mark. The petroleum minister described kerosene production and reserves for the winter months as extremely favorable and expressed the hope that fuel problems will be much reduced this year.

Additional 1,000 POW's Return at Khosravi Border

LD1309173990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Another group of brave freed-men [POW's] returned to the Islamic homeland this evening and they were met at the Khosravi border by the combatants of Islam based in the Qasr-e Shirin region. Our Bakhtaran correspondent has sent a report in this connection to which I draw your attention.

[Begin recording] Today, the Khosravi border was the scene for the return of another group of our country's proud freed men to the Islamic homeland. According to our correspondent in the Qasr-e Shirin region, by 1800 today, another 1,000 brave freed-men, who had recently been registered by the International Committee of the

Red Cross (ICRC), entered the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran via the Khosravi border and were welcomed by the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] ground force; a group of military and security commanders; clergymen; and the combatants of Islam based in the region.

At the same time as the return of this group of pride-inspiring freed men to the Islamic homeland, this afternoon, 1,000 Iraqi POW's were turned over to that country's authorities in the course of two stages.

According to the same report, 1,000 unregistered freed-men are due to return to the Islamic homeland tonight in the course of two stages. In the meantime, the 15th group of unregistered freed-men, who recently returned to the Islamic homeland and who completed their period of quarantine in Bakhtaran, left for their cities of residence aboard several aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force. [end recording]

Further Exchanges

NC1409065990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] In a continuation of the repatriation of the heroic and honorable freemen of our country, 500 more honorable freemen who were not registered recently [as heard], arrived in the Islamic homeland through the Khosravi border post at 2350 yesterday. Thus, a total number of 1,500 unregistered freemen arrived in our country in three phases yesterday.

According to an official at the headquarters in charge of freemen's affairs based in Bakhtaran, 1,500 Iraqi prisoners of war left for their country yesterday under the supervision of Red Cross representatives.

[Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0330 GMT on 14 September reported the following: "Five hundred more heroic and honorable recently registered freemen arrived in the country through the Khosravi border post at 2215 yesterday. Simultaneously 500 Iraqi prisoners of war were handed over to Iraqi officials. With the arrival of this group of dear freemen, a total of 1,500 freemen have been repatriated to officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran at Khosravi border post under the supervision of the International Red Cross Committee. The same number of Iraqi prisoners were handed over to Iraqi officials under the supervision of the said committee"]

Nepal & Bhutan

Second Group of Nepalese Evacuated From Amman

BK1209144390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1425 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 12 (AFP)—A Nepalese aircraft Wednesday evacuated 86 Nepalese from the Jordanian capital of Amman after they had arrived there from Iraqi-occupied Kuwait, a Nepalese Foreign Ministry source said. Foreign Ministry officials went to Amman Tuesday aboard the Royal Nepal Airlines Corp. (RNAC) aircraft to receive the stranded Nepalese, the second such group to be evacuated.

The Nepalese working in Kuwait had travelled about 470 kilometres (282 miles) by land via Iraq to reach Amman, the Foreign Ministry source said. The Nepalese Government previously evacuated 130 Nepalese stranded in Amman after reaching there from Kuwait.

Nepalese who arrived here Wednesday said some other Nepalese who were staying in Kuwait in the hope that banks would reopen and they could withdraw earnings they had deposited there. All the banks in Kuwait were closed after the Iraqi invasion. Family members and others waited for several hours for the arrival of the RNAC at Tribhuvan International Airport, witnesses said. Most of those who were evacuated arrived empty handed.

Pakistan

Official Explains Gulf Crisis Impact on Economy

BK1409093290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] At a meeting in Islamabad yesterday, the Economic Affairs Division's secretary presented a document to envoys of friendly countries, explaining the effects of the Middle East crisis on the economy of Pakistan. Representatives of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the United Nations Development Program were also present. The salient features of the severe strain on Pakistan's balance of payments position arising from the surge in oil prices, drop in home remittances due to return of Pakistani workers from Kuwait and Iraq, and decline in exports to Gulf countries were elaborated during the meeting. The expenditure being incurred by Pakistan on repatriation and rehabilitation of returning Pakistanis was also explained. The envoys appreciated the efforts being made by Pakistan to tackle the problem and assured that they will take up the matter of economic assistance to Pakistan with their respective governments.

PPP Forms Election Alliance With NWFP Parties

BK1409090090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] The Pakistan People's Party [PPP], Awami National Party-Haqiqi Group, and the Qaumi Inqilabi Party have entered into an election alliance. This was announced at a news conference addressed jointly by PPP's North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] President Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao; the chief of the Awami National Party-Haqiqi Group, Afzal Khan; and the NWFP chief of the Qaumi Inqilabi Party, Abdul Latif Afridi. They said the alliance has been formed at the NWFP level and the list of common candidates will be announced within a few days.

Ziaul-Haq Sons To Run as Candidates in Elections

BK1309155090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1254 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 13 (AFP)—The two sons of former Pakistan president Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who died in a mysterious plane crash two years ago, are to stand as candidates in October elections, press reports here said Thursday. Ejazul Haq and Anwarul Haq registered their candidacy Wednesday in different districts of Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, newspapers said.

The 38-year-old Ejazul Haq is overseeing the campaign of the Moslem League, the conservative party opposed to ousted prime minister Benazir Bhutto and affiliated with the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) of Nawaz Sharif. With 40 days left until the polls, divisions persist in the anti-Bhutto camp, which has been unable to field single candidates for all seats contested by Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

In Rawalpindi's District 38, for example, Anwarul Haq is to run against an IJI candidate, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed. Ziaul Haq came to power in 1977 when he overthrew Ms. Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Ms. Bhutto was dismissed as prime minister on August 6 after 20 months in office.

Special Court Defers Hearing of Bhutto Case

BK1309165790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] The reference filed against the former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto Sahibah, in connection with the award of a contract to Messrs Rally Brothers came up for hearing before Mr. Justice Wajihuddin Ahmad, judge of the special court, in Karachi today. After hearing the attorney, Mr. Kamal Mustafa Bukhari, nominated by the president for the reference, the court adjourned the hearing till Tuesday [18 September]. Hearing of the first reference pertaining to appointment of the consultants in connection with the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation's power extension project is to start on that day. The court in its order observed that as in the case of the president's reference number one in respect of the former prime minister, the central questions in these proceedings are that how the Economic Coordination Committee [ECC] is constituted, what are the modalities on the basis of which such a committee operates, and whether in the case its decisions are taken by consensus or by majority or on the basis of overriding vote on the part of the then prime minister. The court further noted in its order that any rules of business on the subject be placed on record of this case. In the event that there are no such rules of business, then a note as regard to conventions and practices which pertains to the exercise of power by the ECC should be placed before the court. The attorneys sought time for doing the needful in accordance with the observations of the court. Accordingly, the court adjourned the hearing of the reference till next Tuesday.

Azad Kashmir Premier Denounces Indian Army

BK1309104690 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] The Azad Kashmir prime minister, Mr. Mumtaz Hussain Rathod, has denounced the killing of 20 people in unprovoked firing by Indian forces on a bus near Srinagar on Tuesday [11 September] last. In a statement in Muzaffarabad, he said it is one of the worst examples of Indian brutality and an outrage of human rights and civil liberties in held Kashmir.

Sri Lanka

Minister Appeals for Help To Evacuate Nationals

BK1309112290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Harold Hearth, met 17 heads of diplomatic missions from donor countries at the ministry in Colombo yesterday. The minister outlined the consequences of the Gulf crisis on Sri Lanka and referred in particular to the loss of the Iraqi tea market, the stoppage of remittances in foreign exchange, the rise in oil prices, and the grave social and economic problems that would be caused by the return of several thousands of Sri Lankan workers. He also requested that aircraft and ships be made available for chartering by the IOM [International Organization of Migration] and the EEC to repatriate stranded Sri Lankans.

The ambassador of the USSR conveyed his government's offer of two Ilyushin-86 aircraft with a passenger capacity of 300 each for transfer of Sri Lankan workers. The heads of missions are expected to convey the request made by the minister to their respective governments.

Rebels Deny Government Recapture of Jaffna Fort

BK1409032490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] There are conflicting reports about the recapture of the Jaffna Fort by the Sri Lankan Government. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has denied that its siege over the fort has been broken. An agency report, quoting a top LTTE leader from Paris, reports that fierce fighting is still going on around the fort areas, causing heavy casualties on both sides. The militants claim to have stopped an army advance on the (Bannai) Causeway that links Mullaitivu Island with the Jaffna Peninsula.

The Sri Lankan Government said yesterday that its forces have broken the truce to enter the fort. Over 100 militants were killed and many wounded. One Sri Lankan aircraft was also shot down. Sixteen soldiers were killed and many others injured.